

# Bavarian News

Vol. 6, Nr. 12

U.S. Army Garrisons Grafenwoehr, Hohenfels, Ansbach, Schweinfurt and Garmisch

June 23, 2010

## HOHENFELS Natural resources

Training area provides haven for animal and plant species forced out of developed areas

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## GARMISCH Father's Day

Tough dads take on the challenge of wearing an empathy belly and feeling like "mom" for a day

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## ANSBACH That rocks!

Soldier Show rocks the house with a theme of new music technology

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## SCHWEINFURT Winning firefighter

Local firefighter receives recognition for saving a life

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## GTA Anniversary

It's time to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the Grafenwoehr Training Area and U.S. Independence Day with food, music and fireworks.

The extravaganza begins Sunday, June 27, with the opening of a museum, a local horn band and the USAREUR Band at the Grafenwoehr City Park. The entire celebration promises to be a hit.

See pages 6-7 for details.

## Art winners

Many competed, only five won. See the vibrant colors and imagery these young artists used to illustrate their idea of the training area and its contribution to U.S. and German forces.

See page 21 for the winners of the GTA's 100th Anniversary Art Contest.

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## Grafenwoehr hosts 10-Miler qualifier

by IMCOM-Europe Public Affairs  
*News Release*

HEIDELBERG, Germany – The qualification race for Soldiers wanting to compete on the U.S. Army Europe 10-Miler team is set for July 10 at U.S. Army Garrison Grafenwoehr.

The top 12 active duty Soldiers (six each in the men and women's divisions) will be nominated to represent U.S. Army Europe during the Oct. 24 Army 10-Miler in Washington, D.C. To be considered, male competitors must finish under 68 minutes, while female runners must finish at 86 minutes or better.

Additionally, each will need com-

mander's approval to be placed on orders, said Jim Mattingly, Installation Management Command-Europe sports and fitness director.

The men's team that represented Europe last year placed second, with the women's squad placing seventh in its division.

While only Soldiers can compete for the U.S. Army Europe team, everyone holding a U.S. Department of Defense identification card, and who is at least 18, may participate in the Europe 10-Miler, which attracted 214 participants last year.

"Registration packets and last-minute sign-up will be the fitness center at USAG Grafenwoehr," said Mattingly.

"The final stretch will be a one-mile lap near the fitness center, where spectators and fans will be able to cheer the runners on to the finish line."

Free troop billets are available on a first-come, first-served basis. For more information or to register, contact the USAG Grafenwoehr Recreation Division at DSN 475-9024, CIV 09641-83-9024, or visit USAG Grafenwoehr's website: [www.grafenwoehr.army.mil](http://www.grafenwoehr.army.mil).

To reserve lodging at Grafenwoehr's Tower Inn, call DSN 475-1700, (49) 09641-83-1700.

Camping at Outdoor Recreation Vilseck is available by calling DSN 476-2866, CIV (49) 09662-83-2866.



**Rachelle Cole, third-grader at Vilseck Elementary School, carefully selects a puzzle piece during an exercise for Odyssey of the Mind.**

## 235 years strong



*Photo by Jeremy S. Buddemeier*

(From left to right) Col. Michael Higginbottom, chief of staff, Joint Multinational Training Command; Chaplain (Maj.) Stan Copeland, U.S. Army Garrison Grafenwoehr Family Life Chaplain; Pvt. Nathaniel Krom, Bravo Company, 3<sup>rd</sup> Battalion, 66<sup>th</sup> Armor Regiment; and JMTC's Command Sgt. Maj. Darieus Zagara prepare to cut the cake during a celebration of the Army's 235th birthday at USAG Grafenwoehr's Dining Facility, June 14. More than 400 Soldiers, civilians and family members attended the event. Copeland, 63, and Krom, 18, were the oldest and youngest Soldiers at U.S. Army Garrison Grafenwoehr. Copeland entered the Army 23 years before Krom was born.

## Schweinfurt Sallys take home title

Story and photos by  
**Christina Floyd**

*Special to the Bavarian News*

To say that the Schweinfurt Sallys played in a series of nail-biters before becoming the CYSS IMCOM Boys Junior Baseball Champions would be an understatement.

The team's uphill battle for the title began the first day of the tournament, June 12, with an exhausting, heart-wrenching 8-6 loss to Grafenwoehr. It was the Sallys first loss of the season. However, they quickly recovered by rallying to beat Vicenza, 7-6, later that day.

The Sallys hit another speed bump the next day. They were rapidly running out of pitchers due to the 40 pitches per 24 hours rule, and also because pitcher Vaun Stivers (son of Spc. Paul Stivers of 500<sup>th</sup> Engineer Horizontal Company), was benched due to a roster mix-up.

As a result, they found themselves down 14-4 at the top of the third inning against Vilseck, which was a remarkable



**Pitcher Derek Shreve winds up as right fielder Dominic Adams takes his position during the Schweinfurt Sallys' second-round game against Vilseck in the CYSS Installation Management Command Boys Junior Baseball Championship, June 13.**

reversal of roles considering the Sallys entered the tournament as the number 1 seed and were accustomed to trouncing opponents, sometimes by 20 points.

Morale was low and the usually good-natured teammates snapped at each over the smallest mistakes. However, this all changed in a stunning moment when, with two outs and bases loaded, a Vilseck

power hitter hit a fly ball to right field.

Right fielder Dominic Adams (the youngest of five sons of Sgt. 1<sup>st</sup> Class Wayde Adams, 44<sup>th</sup> Signal Battalion), caught the ball with the grace of a pro despite the ball's best effort to roll out of his glove.

The Sallys went wild.

See SALLYs, page 21

## Excelling is fun part of the trip

Story and photos by  
**Molly Hayden**  
*Staff Writer*

For many months, six third- and fourth-graders from Vilseck Elementary School worked together as a team, solving unusual problems and testing their spontaneity skills in a unique after school program called Odyssey of the Mind.

Odyssey of the Mind is an international educational program that encourages imaginative paths to problem solving for students from kindergarten through college. Team members think outside the box to solve problems that range from building mechanical devices that perform tasks like a crane to presenting their own interpretation of literary classics.

The months of hard work paid off in mere minutes as the team took the stage during the local Odyssey of the Mind competition in Hohenfels, Germany, in February, and placed first in their division.

This first place win secured a slot for the team in the world finals, held May 26-30, at Michigan State University in East Lansing, Michigan.

The excitement of the world final caught up to the children in the week prior to the competition.

"This is the big time," said 10-year-old Mirielle Ragay. "We'll be performing in front of thousands of people, even college kids."

"It's going to be a lot tougher than the last competition," piped in third-grader Hannah Bajakian.

"But it's important that we do our best," said teammate Daniel Cole, 9. "We have a goal to reach and we can't give up."

Approximately 18,000 people from the U.S. and 25 foreign countries, including France, Beijing, South Africa, Brazil, Canada and many more participated in the world competition.

During the creative extravaganza, more than 800 teams presented original performances of preselected long-term problem synopses to a panel of judges.

At the world finals, the

See ODYSSEY, page 21





## Bavarian News

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We want to hear from you!

The *Bavarian News* welcomes articles from Army organizations and announcements from the general public about events of interest to the military community.

If you have newsworthy ideas or stories you'd like to submit, coordinate with the managing editor at 475-7113, or e-mail [jeremy.buddemeier@eur.army.mil](mailto:jeremy.buddemeier@eur.army.mil). Prior coordination is mandatory.

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Water Tower art by Dane Gray

# Sponsors ensure force stays strong

I have moved many times in my career, within the United States and overseas. I have deployed several times, leaving my wife to pull double duty at home. I know the good, the bad and the ugly of moving firsthand from my family's experience and the stories shared by other Soldiers, civilians and family members. Every move brings new opportunities but also challenges and stress that can have a negative impact on work and home life.

I also know from personal experience that sponsors can be the determining factor between a good or bad move. An excellent sponsor plays a key role in making a positive first impression and helping the new person and family integrate into the unit, workplace and community.

During the past several years the Army has been experiencing a high volume of transition due to Army Force Generation, modularity, Grow the Army, Base Realignment and Closure and troop mobilization. Now more than ever we need effective sponsorship to mitigate the stress of transition; however, Soldiers, civilians and families continue to express frustration with the Army's Sponsorship Program.

Sometimes our personnel and family members have an exceptional sponsor – someone who truly makes them feel welcome and gets them off to an excellent start – but that is not always the case. There may be sponsors who are not well-equipped or motivated to provide the needed assistance or, even worse, no sponsorship at all. These experiences make sponsorship a press-



ing Army Family Action Plan issue. I am taking this opportunity to improve on our Total Army Sponsorship Program (TASP) to enhance the readiness of our Soldiers and civilians, and deliver on our promise to take care of families.

The Army's Sponsorship Program, as prescribed in AR 600-8-8, The Total Army Sponsorship Program, requires every first-term Soldier have a sponsor. The sponsor acts as a big brother or sister and helps the Soldier learn Army standards and develop a sense of responsibility and teamwork. After that initial assignment, TASP offers sponsors for every Soldier, private through colonel, and likewise for every civilian in grades up to GS-15. A vital part of the Sponsorship Program that is often forgotten or overlooked is the rear detachment support provided to family members of deployed Soldiers and civilians.

So we have in our regulations a Sponsorship Program that covers all members of our community. I want to make sure that what is outlined on paper is also happening in our communities. Soldiers, civilians and family members will have a sponsor to provide information and support before, during and after transitions, mobilizations and deployments.

We must make sure sponsors are well-equipped for their important role. Sponsors must understand their role and have the necessary information and resources to fulfill it. Even more so, sponsors must be willing to reach out and make human contact, especially with new Soldiers, first-time civilian employees, and family members who are unfamiliar with the Army way of life.

Above all, I want to ensure that commanders are invested in the success of the Sponsorship Program within their community. TASP is a commander's program. Its success is contingent upon the commander's involvement and support. It is leadership's responsibility to send the message that sponsorship is something important to do and to do it right. At the most basic level, that means having an adequate pool of sponsors to meet the needs of the community and supporting those sponsors with reasonable time and resources to do a good job.

I have asked Command Sgt. Maj. Neil Ciotola to lead a working group to review sponsorship from a holistic perspective and to update the program to meet the needs of Soldiers in today's Army. Two important aspects of the Sponsorship Program under examination are integration and tracking. We must have a means to collect, transmit and follow up on their needs and issues. We do not want Soldiers carrying unresolved issues from assignment to assignment. We do not want families to fail to connect or to become disconnected from their community, espe-

cially if their Soldier is deployed. We are looking at the feasibility of using current systems to integrate and track TASP processes Armywide, among other possible improvements. I anticipate that new recommendations, guidance and requirements will be forthcoming as a result of our review.

We are approaching summer, the traditional moving season for the military. Most of us in an Army environment, Soldiers, civilians and family members alike, know what it is like to relocate. We know what a difference it makes to have a helping hand along the way.

Leaders, your direct experience alone, whether good or bad, should be enough incentive to make the Sponsorship Program in your sphere of influence as effective as possible.

With a successful sponsorship program, we can treat every one of these moves as an opportunity to show that we will do right by Soldiers, civilians and families. The time and effort invested up front will pay big dividends in the satisfaction, commitment and increased cohesion and mission readiness of Army units. All Soldiers, civilians and family members must be provided with quality programs and safe communities that meet their needs while enabling them to thrive and maintain resiliency. We will keep our promise.

*Lt. Gen. Rick Lynch  
Commander, Installation  
Management Command*

## Commander's Message



# Welcoming newcomers is an important mission

"Do unto others as you would have them do unto you." The old saying is still very relevant, especially when referring to sponsorship. Being a sponsor is both an official and unofficial duty. There are requirements per the regulation, AR 600-8-8, and sponsorship has the same implied responsibilities as being a Battle Buddy – it's about doing what's right for your fellow Soldier and the Army, which is taking care of each other.

We are the best military in the world, and not just because we have technology and equipment. It's about the values we instill every Soldier. Being a sponsor does not require any special skills, except for having the ability to plan. We should all reflect back on our own arrival and what went well and what didn't when approaching sponsorship. Those first few weeks after a newcomer arrives are critical to getting a Soldier, or civilian (and family members), established and integrated into the community.

Sponsorship should begin weeks prior to the actual arrival day. At one time, before e-mail, websites, and now, social media, answering initial questions and providing information relied on snail mail and late night phone calls from OCONUS. Now, with all the technology available, it is easy for sponsors to make contact prior to the newcomer's arrival. Providing information about electronics (220v versus 110v and the need for transformers), new time limits to government loaner furniture, or even the lack of closets in private German housing can have a profound impact on what an individual decides to pack when moving.

Also, transportation information, whether it be the local shuttle bus schedule, the airport shuttle bus schedule, public transportation and the associated costs are necessities when first arriving OCONUS can be a lifesaver for new arrivals in Germany. As a sponsor, you can even help your newcomer with small favors such as requesting a mailing address so they can begin forwarding mail.

After a Soldier or civilian newcomer arrives, the most critical step is in-processing. Getting ID cards and installation access must be completed before everything from computer access to obtaining a driver's license can be completed. While we have an excellent shuttle bus system, taking the time to show newcomers around the installation, and helping them get established in the Grafenwoehr Military Community can make the world of difference



in how newcomers view their new home.

The sheer size of our community can make the newcomer's initial arrival a challenge. Our services and programs are spread between Main Post and Rose Barracks and this can be confusing when you first arrive. That's what

makes sponsorship more than just a nice thing to "have." Anger and frustration, and just the stress of moving overseas, can leave newcomers feeling alienated from the community. We are a community that sees continual deployments, so this makes it even more important to take sponsorship as seriously as we would any other mission assignment.

Our Human Resources Directorate, in addition to sponsorship and other in-processing duties, also hosts a spouses' bus tour of the Main Post and Rose Barracks every Wednesday. The bus departs from the In Processing Training Center, Building 166, Rose Barracks, at 1 p.m. and returns at 3:30 p.m. The tour allows spouses to gather information on community agencies, housing and recreation.

Please contact the HRD at DSN 475-6753, CIV 09641-83-6755 for more information. The Child Development Center also provides free child care to participating spouses (for more info call DSN 476-2101, CIV 09662-83-2101).

We are also providing an early bus run between Main Post Grafenwoehr and Rose Barracks, which can be extremely helpful to newcomers. The bus departs the Main Post Dining Facility (Bldg. 101) at 7:15 a.m. and proceeds to Rose Barracks. It arrives at Rose Barracks Health Clinic at 7:45 a.m. and the In/Out-Processing Center (Bldg. 215) at 7:50 a.m. This bus should allow Soldiers and family members to meet early appointments at Rose Barracks.

We will continue to develop local initiatives to help make sponsorship easier, and to help newcomers integrate.

It's great to be at Grafenwoehr!

*Col. Chris Sorenson  
Commander, U.S. Army  
Garrison Grafenwoehr*

## CSM Corner



# Community has two reasons to celebrate

Independence Day celebrations are a crowd pleaser every year, but July 4, 2010, is looking to be the best yet for Grafenwoehr because this year there are two reasons to celebrate.

In addition to Independence Day, the Grafenwoehr Training Area is celebrating its centennial anniversary; 100 years of Soldiers – American, German and many others – training on these grounds.

The City of Grafenwoehr and the Joint Multinational Training Command have joined forces to provide a host of events celebrating German and American traditions to honor this momentous occasion. The excitement begins June 27, continues through the week and concludes with a fireworks display on post the Fourth of July; see page 6 for the complete schedule of events.

There will be historical exhibits, a Grand Tattoo, tours of our famous water tower, concerts, fireworks, a fest with live bands, food and activities for the kids.

In addition to exhibits, the Hunting Horn Players of the Eschenbach County group and the U.S. Army Europe Band in the Grafenwoehr City Park on opening night of the celebrations.

The Germany Army Mountain Music Corps of Garmisch-Partenkirchen and the German Army Logistics Battalion 472 will perform the Grand Tattoo, June 30. Tattoo is a German tradition which dates back to the 16th century.

The Grand Tattoo, called the "Zapfenstreich" in German, is a spectacular event that combines a marching band and precision marching by a group of Soldiers while another group of Soldiers carry lit torches. It takes place in the evening and consists of at least one military band with an additional fife and drum corps,



two escort platoons and an honor formation of torch carriers, and is only performed for very special occasions.

Near the end of the week, July 3 and 4 are perfect days to get out with the kids. Historic military vehicles will be on display at the Grafenwoehr City Park and the military museum will host special exhibits. There will also be a children's parade with balloons and the Grafenwoehr Voluntary Fire Department Band and all children will receive a balloon and a coupon for ice cream at an off-post establishment.

For the Fourth of July, there will be musical and dance performances as well as fest activities off post; on post, guests can tour the water tower and watch the Lt. Dan Band with actor Gary Sinise perform.

In addition, there will be tours of the training area and live-fire displays by the German Army. This joint celebration is a perfect opportunity for newcomers to Grafenwoehr, and Germany in general, to get a sampling of the German culture side-by-side with our American traditions.

The evening will end with a fireworks show on the parade field. Make sure to get out and enjoy all of these free events. Be safe and have a happy Fourth of July and 100th anniversary, Grafenwoehr!

*Command Sgt. Maj.  
William Berries  
CSM, U.S. Army  
Garrison Grafenwoehr*



# New ICE boxes here for summer

Interactive Customer Evaluation Program revamps its image, solicits feedback

by Nathaniel Strong III  
*USAG Grafenwoehr  
Plans, Analysis and Integration*

The Interactive Customer Evaluation Program, or ICE, has been revamped, giving customers even more opportunities to voice their satisfaction or disapproval on the services they receive. The U.S. Army Garrison Grafenwoehr's Plans, Analysis and Integration Office, in conjunction with the Directorate of Public Works Metal Shop, recently installed more than 100 new ICE comment card boxes and posters at Rose Barracks and Main Post to let customers know their opinions matter.

After a thorough evaluation by the Plans, Analysis and Integration Office, it was determined that adding new boxes and posters would give customers an additional, convenient way of providing feedback.

ICE is an Internet-based customer comment evaluation system which gives community members the opportunity to rate the products and services provided by the different offices and facilities worldwide and provide immediate feedback. Comment card ratings are used to improve the products and service offered by the Department of Defense. The program is designed to ad-

vance customer service by allowing managers to monitor the satisfaction levels of services provided through reports and customer comments. ICE also provides the following benefits:

- Allows customers to quickly and easily provide feedback to service provider managers
- Gives leadership timely data on service quality
- Allows managers to benchmark the performance of their service providers against other organizations
- Encourages communication across organizations by comparing best practices to increase performance results
- Saves money

The purpose of the Interactive Customer Evaluation Program will not change – the new drop boxes will continue to be the receiving and collection point for customers to pick up and deposit the ICE comment cards.

The preferred source to provide feedback to service provider managers is the ICE website <https://ice.disa.mil>. In order to give all customers the opportunity to use the website USAG Grafenwoehr is currently working on identifying high frequented customer areas and validating locations for "ICE kiosks" that will allow customers to submit ICE comments electronically.

*Editor's Note: Nathaniel Strong III is a management analyst with U.S. Army Garrison Grafenwoehr's Plans, Analysis and Integration Office.*



Photo by Jeremy S. Buddemeier  
**Helmut Eichler (foreground) and Johann Kroher from U.S. Army Grafenwoehr Directorate of Public Works' Metal Shop install an Interactive Customer Evaluation box and poster in Grafenwoehr's Building 244, June 11. DPW installed more than 100 upgraded ICE comment boxes on Rose Barracks and Grafenwoehr's Main Post.**



**Directorate of Public Works plumbers mount solar panels on the roof of the Rose Barracks Dining Facility, Building 603. The project, which cost \$34,000, was paid for with funds generated from selling scrap metal and other recyclable material, and will save the garrison an estimated \$5,100 per year in heating costs.**

## USAG Graf goes green by installing solar panels

Project to pay for itself within next seven years

Story and photo by  
**Robert Arlt**  
*USAG Grafenwoehr  
Directorate of Public Works*

From a series of renewable energy projects undertaken by the U.S. Army Garrison Grafenwoehr, the first one began at Rose Barracks in April. The Directorate of Public Works used in-house manpower to install the 70 square meters of solar panels at the Dining Facility (Building #603) over the course of two weeks.

The solar panels produce domestic hot water for the kitchen, bathrooms and the dishwashing machines, which not only increases energy efficiency but also moves the garrison one step closer to achieving the Department of Defense Energy Conservation Program goals.

By using the in-house personnel to design, construct and operate this system, DPW minimized cost and maximized the size of the project. The solar panels will preheat the domestic hot water before it is heated up by the district heat system to its desirable temperatures. With a project cost of \$34,000 and an estimated annual saving of \$5,100, the project will pay for itself in less than seven years.

Although it was considered a small project, the environmental benefits are enormous. Rose Barracks thermal solar project produces 50 MWh (170 MMB-TU) of climate-friendly energy, preventing 11 tons of carbon dioxide per year from being released into the atmosphere.

The \$34,000 for this project came out of RRR funds – money that is generated through selling of scrap metal and other recyclable material. This shows that community participation in saving energy and sorting their trash properly will not only benefit the environment, but will also generate money that can be used for other garrison programs such as funding green energy projects like this one.

Other renewable energy projects that will be completed soon are solar thermal panels for the Physical Fitness Center on Grafenwoehr's Main Post and photovoltaic panels for Main Post buildings 244 and 725, and Rose Barracks' buildings 680, 681 and 682.

*Editor's Note: Robert Arlt is the chief of the Mechanical / Utilities Section at U.S. Army Garrison Grafenwoehr's Directorate of Public Works.*

Have a story idea?  
Call DSN 475-7113,  
CIV 09641-83-7113.

## Jones in the 'Zone'

**Maj. Gen. Reuben D. Jones, commanding general for Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation Command (center), talks with staff members of numerous Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation facilities at the Warrior Zone during a recent visit to the Grafenwoehr Training Area.**

Jones toured Main Post and Rose Barracks during his two-day visit and assessed ongoing and upcoming projects, including the Warrior Zone, which is designed to provide a fun, casual atmosphere for single Soldiers, is scheduled to open June 28. Jones also thanked employees for their dedication to Soldiers and families and their contributions to the success of FMWR programs.

"I succeed because of you," he said. "Your feedback and hard work is making a difference."



Photo by Molly Hayden

## Those PCSing should apply for import permits

by Robert Szostek  
*USEUCOM Customs Public Affairs*

HEIDELBERG, Germany – People moving to the United States this summer should start preparing now by finding new homes for the things that are banned from import. It is also a good idea to apply early for import permits on restricted items since the process can take months, customs officials advise.

"Prohibited items include meat and meat products such as sausage, pâté and salami, as well as plants and destructive devices," said Bill Johnson, director of the U.S. European Command's Customs and Border Clearance Agency. "If you're planning on shipping firearms, ensure you have proof that you owned them in the states or have an import permit."

He also explained that other important points to remember are:

■ Owners of vehicles not made to U.S. standards have to ship them through commercial importers registered with the Department of Transportation and Environmental Protection Agency. However, vehicles more

than 25 years old are exempt.

■ Mopeds and motorcycles must also meet U.S. safety and pollution standards and all vehicles must be free of dirt, insects and vegetation.

■ Wine collections can only be shipped with advance approval from the transportation office.

■ Endangered species items such as ivory and some furs may only be shipped if owners can prove they were previously owned in the U.S. or are antiques over 100 years old.

■ State attorneys general must approve imports of gambling devices. These devices must be registered with the Justice Department in Washington D.C.

Need more details? Check out the military customs website at [www.hqusareur.army.mil/opm/uscustoms.htm](http://www.hqusareur.army.mil/opm/uscustoms.htm), or get many informative pamphlets from a military customs office: Garmisch: DSN 440-3601, CIV 08821-750-3601; Grafenwoehr: DSN 475-7249, CIV 09641-83-7249; Hohenfels: DSN 466-2012, CIV 09472-83-2012; and Schweinfurt: DSN 353-8847/8846, CIV 09721-96-8847/8846.

## Garmisch welcomes riders to its Motorcycle Safety Day, June 26

by U.S. Army Garrison  
**Garmisch Public Affairs**  
*News Release*

GARMISCH, Germany – Attention all bikers! The Secretary and the Chief of Staff of the Army directed all Installation Management Command garrisons to host motorcycle safety events in support of the 2010 National Motorcycle Safety month.

The USAG Garmisch Safety Office, in cooperation with the Public Affairs Office, Family Readiness Group, Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation and AAFES will conduct a Motorcycle Safety Day, June 26, to promote safety among Army riders in the garrison community.

All ID cardholding riders, including local national employees with post access, are invited and encouraged to participate.

Some of the scheduled events are hands-on riders training, exhibi-

tions, a motorcycle rodeo and poker run, prizes courtesy of AAFES, and food and refreshments provided by the Garrison Family Readiness Group.

There are old riders and bold riders, but no old bold riders; Motorcycle Safety Day activities reinforce and promote safe riding habits among Army riders of all experience levels. For those who have been riding all of their lives, this is a chance to share your street smarts with those just getting started. For the newer riders this is a chance to gain advice and tips that can save your life.

The fun begins at 10 a.m. on Saturday, June 26, on the Artillery Kaserne motorcycle safety training range. All events should be concluded by 4 p.m.

For more information, contact the garrison safety manager at DSN 440-3595, CIV 08821-750-3595, or register at [DLIMCOM-EGarmisch-eebmaster@eur.army.mil](mailto:DLIMCOM-EGarmisch-eebmaster@eur.army.mil).



# 2-28th 'Black Lions' arrive in Bulgaria



Soldiers of the 2nd Battalion, 28th Infantry Regiment, "Black Lions," pass through customs at Burgas Airport in Bulgaria, June 7. The Black Lions are taking part in bilateral training exercise with Bulgarian Land Forces as part of Task Force-East 2010.

Story and photo by  
**Sgt. Charles D. Crail**  
*172nd Infantry Brigade*  
*Public Affairs*

NOVO SELO TRAINING AREA, Bulgaria – Soldiers of the 2nd Battalion, 28th Infantry Regiment, "Black Lions," 172nd Infantry Brigade, arrived in Bulgaria, June 7, marking the beginning of Operation Saber Dawn.

Operation Saber Dawn is a bilateral training exercise between the Bulgarian Land Forces and U.S. Army Europe and is part of the larger Task Force-East initiative designed to strengthen relationships between the United States and its eastern European allies.

"Remember who you are, you are Black Lions," said Lt. Col. John V. Meyer III, commander, 2-28th Inf. Regt., to his Soldiers as they prepared to depart for Bulgaria. "You set the standard for the Army. We will show our NATO allies the professionalism of the Black Lions and the United States Army."

The 2010 rotation will partner more than 200 American infantrymen from Grafenwoehr's 2-28th Inf. Regt., with more than 100 Bulgarian Land Forces infantrymen from the 3rd Battalion, 61st Mechanized Brigade, based in Karlovo, Bulgaria.

"When we train together,"

said Maj. Krassimir Dalev, headquarters representative, Bulgarian Land Forces, during the official opening ceremony. "We can learn to trust one another and better help each other in difficult times."

The focus of the TF-East rotation this year is on small unit leadership and basic dismounted infantry skills.

The intent of the exercise is two-fold, explained Capt. Michael Gunther, operations officer, 2-28th Inf. Regt.: First, the exercise is to assist the Bulgarian Land Forces in predeployment qualifications prior to its deployment to Afghanistan later this year. Second, it is to increase the capabilities of the junior noncommissioned officer leadership in TF 2-28.

The Novo Selo Training Area provides an excellent training environment to ruggedize Soldiers and prepare them to operate with combat loads in austere conditions and arrive ready to fight and win, said Gunther.

Training vents will involve combined, squad-level maneuvers between U.S. and Bulgarian infantry forces. Soldiers from each nation will have the opportunity to familiarize themselves with their partner nation's weapon systems. Training will encompass small arms familiarization, Hummer training and advanced life-saving techniques.

## 172nd Inf. Bde. gets back to basics at Novo Selo



Junior noncommissioned officers of the scout platoon, 2nd Battalion, 28th Infantry Regiment, coach Pfc. Jeremy Stenulson while he zeroes his weapon at Task Force-East 2010. The basic fundamentals of dismounted infantry operations, shoot, move, communicate and first aid, are the primary goals of the bilateral training exercise. Stenulson arrived at the unit from initial entry training just three weeks prior to the training deployment.

Story and photo by  
**Sgt. Charles D. Crail**  
*172nd Infantry Brigade*  
*Public Affairs*

NOVO SELO TRAINING AREA, Bulgaria – Clouds, rain and mud greeted the Soldiers of Task Force-East, here, on the second day of training, June 9, during Operation Saber Dawn.

The scout platoon, 2nd Battalion, 28th Infantry Regiment, 172nd Infantry Brigade, from Grafenwoehr, Germany, lined up to draw ammunition before moving to the range to conduct familiarization fire with its Bulgarian counterparts from the 3rd Battalion, 61st Mechanized Brigade, from Karlovo, Bulgaria.

"Mastering the basics of small unit tactics is our goal: shoot, move, communicate and first aid," said Staff Sgt. Marvin Caban-Acosta, scout platoon sergeant, 2-28th Inf. Regt.

Caban-Acosta said his Sol-

diers spent the first day doing basic maneuver drills to get a feel for the terrain and their equipment while working with their Bulgarian partner-platoon.

Moving in formation, security halts, patrol bases and night security are just some of the basic fundamentals of dismounted operations that the scouts are working on so far, said Caban-Acosta.

"I came out with high hopes that I would learn something," Pvt. Erasmo Alarcon, scout, 2-28th Inf. Regt., said.

"The little classes we are doing are where I feel I am learning the most," said Pfc. Jeremy Stenulson, scout, 2-28th Inf. Regt. "The hands-on experience is really helping me. Shooting the Bulgarians' AK-47 was really cool."

Both Stenulson and Alarcon arrived in Grafenwoehr in mid-May with a group of eight other scouts. Of the eight new scouts, only Stenulson and Alarcon were selected to de-

ploy with TF-East, they said.

Stenulson admitted he was a little nervous getting ready to come, hoping he would not screw-up. Their sergeants are taking great care of them though, said Alarcon, helping them to master the basics.

Learning the basics is not their only opportunity. Working with their Bulgarian partners is providing these new Soldiers a chance gain experience that they can take back and teach their friends who didn't deploy, they said.

After they go through a class using American tactics, Bulgarian soldiers then teach the same class using Bulgarian tactics, Stenulson said.

"This is an once-in-a-lifetime opportunity," said Alarcon, "to be assigned to Germany, then come to Bulgaria."

"I joined to see the world," continued Stenulson. "But my drill sergeant said I would only get to see America and Afghanistan, maybe Germany. Now here I am in Bulgaria."

## Safety the priority, preparation the key in Bulgaria

Story and photo by  
**Sgt. Charles D. Crail**  
*172nd Infantry Brigade Public Affairs*

NOVO SELO TRAINING AREA, Bulgaria – Safety is the number one priority in Army training, but the austere environment of Task Force-East requires special preparation for medical evacuation operations.

As the rifle platoons of the 2nd Battalion, 28th Infantry Regiment, and their Bulgarian partner-platoons of the 3rd Battalion, 61st Mechanized Brigade, train, here, the tactical operations center staff focuses on supporting their real world needs.

The task of how to evacuate and care for injured Soldiers in the event of an injury requires close coordination in this dynamic training exercise.

"We have established a continuing point of wound care here," Sgt. Garrett Poole, medic, 2-28 Inf. Regt., said. "Our medical station is set-up to render care and either return the Soldier to duty or stabilize them for transport to a higher level of care."

Poole explained that U.S. Army doctrine calls for a patient to always progress in the level of care received. Care begins at the point of injury with the medic assigned to each rifle platoon conducting training.

Once transported to the aid station, a team of six medics and a physician assistant render further aid. The aid station is in operation 24 hours a day, Poole said.

If the Soldier requires additional treatment, the Bulgarians have provided a doctor and nurse team to transport the patient to the hospital in a civilian ambulance.

"Once we receive a patient, we begin treatment," said Poole. "The outcome of this treatment will be one of three things: Soldier returns to their unit, is given quarters and follow up treatment, or is evacuated to the next higher level."

Live fire exercises, poisonous snakes, oppressive heat and night operations in dense, rugged terrain add up to create real danger, regardless of the safety precautions put in place by

planners.

In a worst-case scenario, medical evacuation helicopters of the 1st Battalion, 214th Aviation Regiment, from Mannheim, Germany, are assigned to TF-East and remain ready to fly on a moment's notice.

Medical evacuation begins with a radio call containing nine items of key information about the casualty situation, referred to in NATO operations as a "nine-line medevac request."

Once the call is received, a Bulgarian military ambulance is dispatched to the pickup point with an American medic, interpreter and Bulgarian driver to retrieve the casualty.

Depending on the urgency of the request, a UH-60 Blackhawk helicopter can be flown into a hasty landing zone anywhere in the training area to expedite the evacuation.

Thus far in the training, the majority of the treatments have been routine, said Capt. Hugh Waller, physician assistant, 172nd Inf. Bde., though two urgent evacuations have been conducted.



Sgt. Garrett Poole, medic, 2nd Battalion, 28th Infantry Regiment, plots the coordinates of a medical evacuation pickup site at Novo Selo Training Area, Bulgaria, June 8. Pfc. Tina Hyndman (left), medic, 172nd Support Battalion, is assigned to the mission with Pvt. Blagovest Kzastev (right), who is the driver of the Bulgarian Land Forces ambulance.

In both cases, said Waller, the patients were stabilized at the aid station, and, after treatment and rest, were able to return to duty.



# Celebrating 100 Years

# Grafenwöhr

## TRAINING AREA



### Sunday, June 27

#### Culture and Military Museum

5 p.m. - Exhibition Opening "100 Years Training Area" and "100 Years Federal Forest Office"

6 p.m. - Hunting Horn Players of the Eschenbach county group

7 p.m. - City Park: Concert, USAREUR Band

### Wednesday, June 30

#### Parade Field near the Water Tower, GTA

7:45 a.m. - Community invited to firing re-enactment ceremony in Training Area  
(see item in Community Highlights, page 10, for more information)

5 p.m. - Gate 1 opens for pedestrians (non-ID card holders need passports)

6 p.m. - Festive Retreat, followed by food and beverages served by the German Army

9 p.m. - Remarks "100 Years Training Area"

9:20 p.m. - Festive re-enactment of the First Shot, JMTC

9:30 p.m. - Grand Tattoo / Military ceremony with German Army Mountain Music Corps  
Garmisch-Partenkirchen and German Army Logistics Battalion 472

### Saturday, July 3

#### Citizens' Fest – fest activities from the town hall to the Water Tower

Noon - Large exhibition of historic military vehicles in the citypark and Untere Torstrasse  
Special exhibitions at the museum are open

Tours of Grafenwoehr Training Area with live fire by Tank Brigade 12 "Oberpfalz"  
Busses leave every 30 minutes from the museum – Length of tours: 1.5 hrs.

4:30 p.m. - Children's parade with balloons and the band of the Grafenwöhr Voluntary Fire  
Dept. from the town hall to the Kennedy Monument (across from the German post office)

5 p.m. - Opening of the Citizen's Fest with keg tapping by First Mayor Helmuth Wächter  
and Colonel Chris Sorenson.

5:30 p.m. - Fest activities start

8 p.m. - 1 a.m. - Live music by the band "Highlife"

### Sunday, July 4

#### Citizens' Fest and Independence Day, Grafenwoehr Parade Field

American Food & Fun combined with live entertainment

11 a.m. – 5 p.m. - Face Painting, Balloon Twisting, Magic Show by Magic Maxx, Card Games,  
Chess, Checkers, Dominoes, Badminton, Horseshoes, Volleyball and Jumping Castles

Special exhibitions at the museum are open Tours of Grafenwoehr Training Area with  
live fire by Tank Brigade 12 "Oberpfalz"

Busses leave every 30 minutes from the museum – 1.5 hr tours. Large exhibition of  
historic military vehicles in the citypark and Untere Torstrasse

10 a.m. – 1 p.m. - Fest activities and "Frühschoppen" with live music by the "Stodtbergsait'n"  
from Eschenbach

2 p.m. - Performance by the choir "The Encores"

3:30 p.m. - Performance by the children's dance group, Grafenwoehr

5 p.m. - Concert by the Big Band of the Pressath-Grafenwoehr Music School

6 – 10 p.m. - Country and Western time with the "Flying Boots"

Starting at 3 p.m. Gate 1 opens for pedestrians (non-ID card holders bring passport)

3 – 7 p.m. - Water Tower opens for tours

4 – 6:30 p.m. - Concert with the "Lt. Dan Band" (actor Gary Sinise)

7 – 10:30 p.m. - Concert "Pop nach 8" Band

10:30 p.m. - Large fireworks display celebrating Independence Day

### Saturday, July 3 and Sunday, July 4

Public exhibition by the Federal Forest Office  
at Vilseck-Heringnohe from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.



# 7TH U.S. ARMY JOINT MULTINATIONAL TRAINING COMMAND CELEBRATING A CENTURY OF TRAINING EXCELLENCE



## A family tradition that spans 100 years of Grafenwoehr History

By Michael Beaton, JMTC Public Affairs

It is largely through the lens of Hans Spahn, photographer, that we know the first 50 years of the Grafenwoehr Training Area's (GTA's) history. Since 1909, the Spahn family has captured the lives of the Soldiers who trained, and the citizens of Grafenwoehr.

Born in Hammelburg into a family of photographers in 1881, Spahn learned his trade from his father, and was a master photographer by age 29. Technically proficient and multifaceted, he then moved to Grafenwoehr, becoming the camp photographer.

He was adept in portraiture, architectural photography, photo journalism, and specialized in the conventional wedding photo of the period. Spahn established his own studio, while documenting the growth of the GTA.

"He was always very exact and precise, very patient, when taking a photo," said Edith Spahn, granddaughter-in-law, who lives in the house, just outside Grafenwoehr's Gate 1, where the Spahn family studio still stands today. "For Hans photography was a craft, and he worked at it constantly with absolute commitment - he had extremely high standards, whether he was making a studio portrait of a common infantryman in full kit and helmet, or photographing the maneuvers of thousands of troops in the field with the Prince Regent in attendance. He was looking through the lens for the best photo he could make."

His signature mark — his pre-1915 Opel old-timer automobile, was similar to a Ford "Model T," and he would often unobtrusively include the car somewhere in the frame of many of his images. The old car positively confirms a Hans Spahn photo - online or anywhere else.

It was not uncommon to find the vehicle in many of the architectural or landscape photos he printed and sold as postcards to visiting Soldiers over the years.

"He knew exactly where to put the camera for the best shot," said Alexander Kneidl, owner and proprietor of the Spahn Photo studio. "For instance, he would show the artillery crew at work, the gun and its recoil, the action of the Soldiers in the moment. Hans would not have considered himself an artist, but it's hard to deny that his work definitely has a certain artistry."

Hans let the image tell the Soldiers story — the Grafenwoehr story — his photos had a lot of details found after a second look, he said.

For decades Spahn's camera recorded the visits of many famous people, such as Crown Prince Rupprecht of Bavaria, Reichswehr Commander Hans von Seeckt, General Heinz Guderian, and also infamous figures such as the dictators, Hitler, Mussolini and Horthy.

After the Allied bombing raids and the American occupation of the GTA and the city, Spahn was unable to take photographs inside the GTA, until the establishment of the Bundeswehr, the new German military in 1955. By this time, he was working with his son, Erich, a talented photographer in his own right.

"It's to Erich we are indebted for many of the excellent Cold War period photos we have," said Kneidl. Once the Bundeswehr arrived both Spahns, Hans and Erich subsequently began photographing both German and American Soldiers, photographing military events and ceremonies, and making portraits of the Soldiers and their families in the Spahn studio, a tradition the Spahn studio continues to this day, where it was first established 100 years ago.

Today, Erich's son, Erich Jr., continues the Spahn legacy of photography in Amberg, specializing in commercial advertising photography for industry.

Recently, Kneidl discovered a treasure trove of unpublished historical Grafenwoehr Training Area photo negatives in a storage shed behind the Spahn studio. The negatives were old, glass plates, and had begun to deteriorate as the chemicals aged, and the photos were exposed to the moisture and heat of the shed. Kneidl rescued and is restoring the negatives digitally for use in a future publication he has planned. Many of the photos are already at the Grafenwoehr Cultural and Military Museum, generously donated by the Spahn family.

The museum's historian and curator, Olaf Meiler says, it would be much harder, if not impossible, to tell the GTA 100-year story accurately without the historic Spahn photos.

"The written materials we have are very important, without a doubt, but photos engage and help the reader to conjure up the period in a way that words cannot," said Meiler. "Spahn photos are very honest and very clear, besides being wonderful to look at. It's hard to imagine the 100-year Grafenwoehr Training Area celebration without them!"



Three generations of talented photographers: Erich Spahn (center), Hans Spahn (left) and Erich Spahn, Jr. (right) photographed in the 1950s.



Hans Spahn often included his pre-1915 Opel, as a "signature" in his photos, as seen in the lower right of this popular postcard issued from his studio.



Hans Spahn photographed the Italian dictator Mussolini when he visited the GTA to inspect the San Marco Division in 1944.



Today's JMTC Headquarters was previously the GTA hospital and infirmary in 1910.



In the spring of 1913, Hans Spahn photographed the largest military exercise in prewar Europe. It took place at Grafenwoehr with 12,000 troops, 540 officers, 1,000 horses and 16 aircraft taking part.



The Spahn studio in 1909. The skylight was built to provide optimal light for portrait photography.



A Grafenwoehr city commemoration, possibly shot during WWI. Note the military delegation, left.



Hans Spahn captured this interesting shot of a new glider being christened in the Grafenwoehr's city square in 1937.



A typical 1914 portrait taken at the Spahn studio. Such photos were sent home to mothers or sweethearts.

EXPLORE THE MILITARY HISTORY OF THE GRAFENWOEHR TRAINING AREA  
ONLINE AT [WWW.HQJMTC.ARMY.MIL/GRAFENWOEHR100.HTML](http://WWW.HQJMTC.ARMY.MIL/GRAFENWOEHR100.HTML)



## Strength in Diversity

## Fodor speaks international Soldiers' language

Hungarian background helps JMTC employee shape Army training in European theater

by Sgt. Maj. Rodney Williams

*JMTC Public Affairs*

Hungarian native turned U.S. citizen Peter Fodor plays an integral part in coordinating training opportunities for allied nations who train at the 7th U.S. Army Joint Multinational Training Command (JMTC).

The JMTC, where U.S. Soldiers regularly train with their multinational partners, depends on civilians like Fodor to facilitate coordination at all levels from both JMTC and participating countries.

As a member of the International Military Training (IMT) section, Fodor helps sustain JMTC's multinational training effort in support of U.S. European Command's Theater Security Cooperation program while building partnership capacity.

"On a daily basis I assist with the logistical, administrative and other supporting arrangements, which enable our allies to train their Soldiers, Sailors and Marines at the Grafenwoehr and Hohenfels training areas," said Fodor. "I usually take on the responsibility of escorting international members around primary areas such as the billets where they will be staying, the dining facility and some of the local eateries and bakeries off post so they basically have an idea of what is available to them."

Fodor's varied background supports him in his current capacity at JMTC. He was born and raised in Hungary and spent the first 14 years of his life in Europe. Months before gaining his U.S. citizenship in 1980, this Hungarian native joined the U.S. Air Force because he liked the opportunities the military offered.

"My original intention was to serve four



Photo by Staff Sgt. Lytleton Yates

**Peter Fodor (right) of the International Military Training section at the Joint Multinational Training Command talks to international students from the Republic of Ukraine, Czech Republic and Poland attending the 7th U.S. Army Noncommissioned Officer Academy at the JMTC's Grafenwoehr Training Area in Germany.**

years, get a college education, and then look for other opportunities," said Fodor. "After hardly attending any school during those first four years, the second four years proved to be very fruitful. I earned an associate, a bachelor's and a master's degree."

Fodor's exposure to the overseas military culture as well as consistent contact with international members began to develop during his first assignment in Germany.

"The support structure available abroad and

life away from the continental U.S. afforded me the flexibility to work in different military settings," said Fodor. "My regular contact with non-U.S. military officers and their families started in 1989 during my 8-year Air University tenure where my family sponsored six international officers and their families."

During his 25 years in the military, Fodor frequently found himself communicating with members of international militaries. During assignments at the Air Force Senior Noncom-

missioned Officer Academy, the Defense Language Institute, and the German NCO School, he sponsored internationals studying at the U.S. Air Force Air University, the Naval Post Graduate School and the German Senior Service School, enabling him to establish contacts with internationals and maintain those contacts today.

Whether it was during his time in the Air Force, or at his current position with JMTC, Fodor has met many international service members and listened to their life stories and experiences in the military or just in everyday life.

"I think those are elements that all come in handy when I work in the IMT office," said Fodor. "Internationals come into the office and I immediately recognize the uniform and say 'you're from that country, you do this job and by the way I have seen this or that from your country.'"

The frequent opportunities to meet foreign military personnel of other NATO and Partnership for Peace countries, and learn about their life, culture and military units are what Fodor considers the most interesting aspect of his job.

"I like the comments that the internationals make after a training event. They say things such as this is an outstanding organization, an outstanding training opportunity, and we (JMTC) have helped them help their military prepare for the next mission," added Fodor.

With world-class facilities and trainers available to provide the most relevant and realistic training possible, the coordination Fodor provides helps our multinational partners gain access to training resources that may not be available in their home country so they can meet future missions.

"I get a sense of satisfaction when internationals complete their nation specific or NATO prescribed training knowing I had a role although only a minor role in the big picture," said Fodor. "But a role nevertheless in helping Soldiers prepare for the battlefield."

## Chance meeting leads to career as nurse

Story and photo by

**Jennifer Walsh**

*BMEDDAC Public Affairs*

Armed with his bachelor's degree in history, Maj. Patrick Hartley was ready to start molding the minds of the future as a high school teacher. However, things didn't go exactly as planned.

"At that time in North Carolina, a lot of teachers were being laid off because of a huge budget crisis," Hartley said. "I needed a good job so I decided to go to nursing school."

Soon after, a chance meeting with a recruiter led him back to the Army where he had previously served with the 1st Cavalry Division.

"They paid for my school, paid off my school loans and I had enough to go to McDonald's afterward," Hartley said. "So I came back to the Army."

Flash forward 15 years and Hartley is the chief nurse at the Vilseck Health Clinic. He's responsible for helping the clinic run smoothly and ensuring patients get the medical attention they need. He said his job satisfaction corresponds with helping others.

"You don't enjoy it unless you care," Hartley said. "The best part is when you see these young moms and they don't know what's going on and they're stressed and you take a few minutes to help them. You can change their whole world."

Hartley's compassion extends beyond his patients to his staff. Provid-

**“They paid for my school, paid off my school loans and I had enough to go to McDonald's afterward.”**

**Maj. Patrick Hartley**

Chief Nurse

Vilseck Health Clinic



**Maj. Patrick Hartley, Vilseck Health Clinic chief nurse, points out a nursing regulation to Spc. Nicholas McCune at the clinic.**

ing them with guidance and direction is integral to the success of the clinic, he said.

"I work for my staff everyday to help them solve problems. I also have to set the tone," Hartley said. "I've got to be happy every day I come to work. If they see me down, they're going to be down."

Before he was the chief nurse, Hartley held other assignments such as working in a psychiatric unit and in the emergency room. However, one of his favorite assignments was as a recruiter.

"I had a blast in recruiting," Hartley said. "There are a lot of folks out

there in nursing who don't realize what opportunities we have. It was fun to go and tell them (nursing students) about the things we can do and where we can go."

According to Hartley, with some of the nursing students a "light switch would flip on" when they realized they wanted to take care of military service members and their families. While he was stationed at Fort Hood, Texas, he also had a moment that validated his decision to become a nurse. It happened as he was talking to a first sergeant who had been injured by an improvised explosive device in Iraq.

"He had an injury and most of his

right hip was gone. When we were talking, I asked him why he was trying to get back to Iraq when he was that hurt," Hartley said. "And he said if 'I get hurt, I know you guys will be there.' To be complimented like that was pretty cool. Somewhere along the line, we did a darn good job."

Overall, Hartley said he appreciates the unique opportunities and challenges he's had as a nurse in the Army. But the reason he's stayed an Army nurse for so long isn't for him, it's for the people he serves.

"What it comes down to is serving those who serve is truly an honor," he said.

## Maddocks educates Rear DetachmentDragoons

by Spc. Corey Glynn

*2SCR Public Affairs*

The Behavioral Health Care Bill of Rights is an important part of U.S. European Command (EUCOM), according to Fleet Master Chief Petty Officer Roy M. Maddocks, EUCOM senior enlisted advisor, as he briefed Soldiers from 2nd Stryker Cavalry Regiment at the Rose Barracks theatre, June 2.

"Soldiers have the right to a

healthy mental state of being," said Maddocks. "A strong mind is just as important as a strong body."

In a packed theatre, Maddocks' main topic of discussion was Soldiers' behavioral health. He explained the Soldiers' Bill of Rights for Behavioral Health Care is in place to provide troops with strictly confidential mental health care.

"The bill of rights is a way to let our people know it's OK to get mental health help," Maddocks said.

Another important topic during the briefing was enlisted service member's education.

"We are working on better education options for enlisted servicemen and women," he said. "Officers have a chance for the military to pay for their master's degree; why can't the military pay for yours?"

During Maddocks' visit to Rose Barracks he also participated in physical training with new Soldiers from 7th Troop, 2SCR. After the rigorous

PT session Maddocks brought everyone in close to talk about the importance of family health and taking care of their families.

He said families are a main support system for deployed service members.

"Preparing for a deployment is tough on a family so you need to make sure that you have everything ready, so your loved ones are better prepared for when you leave," Maddocks said.

## Dragoons sample local culture in Amberg

by Spc. Corey Glynn

*2SCR Public Affairs*

Moving to and getting around in a new country can be confusing. The 2nd Stryker Cavalry Regiment's Rear Detachment is trying to change that for incoming Dragoon troops and spouses.

Through the Welcome to Bavaria program, single Soldiers, married Soldiers and spouses can experience a day of sightseeing, shopping and traditional German cuisine as they travel to Amberg. Amberg is just a short bus ride from Rose Barracks and offers the newcomers a firsthand look at traveling in Bavaria.

The first stop on the trip is to the Maria Hilfberg Church set atop a picturesque hill outside of downtown Amberg. This 16th century sanctuary was built as a tribute to the Virgin Mary for saving the townspeople from the Bubonic Plague.

After a guided tour through and around the church, the group makes its way through the center of town. New Dragoons can shop, sip coffee at a quaint cafe, and even toss a few coins into an old town fountain.

Staff Sgt. Jarred Evans of 7th Troop, 2SCR, coordinates these outings and feels that it's important to help arriving Dragoons feel at home.

"Taking this day trip to Amberg helps our new Soldiers and their families feel at ease about getting around in a new place," he said. "Small excursions like this one boost troop morale as well as add to the Soldiers' understanding about living in Germany."

There have been six of these trips to Amberg so far. The 8th Squadron plans to host more trips like this one to help incoming Dragoons settle into their new environment.



# What’s Happening

## Grafenwoehr/Vilseck Briefs

### Car keys found

Attention Schweinfurt service members: a set of car or house keys was found June 1-2 in the Grafenwoehr Housing Office, A&T Branch, Bldg. 244, Rm. 109. Contact the Housing Office to identify and claim your keys at DSN 475-6192/6980/6080, CIV 09641-83-6192/6980/6080.

### Dinner at the USO

The USO hosts dinners for our Soldiers every Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. If you want to volunteer to cook a meal for the Soldiers, call CIV 09641-605-2946 to schedule a date and time.

### Hearts Apart

The ACS Mobilization and Deployment Readiness class, Hearts Apart: Forest Adventure is June 25 from 9 a.m.-4 p.m.

Hearts Apart is a program designed for spouses of deployed Soldiers that provides information, tips, advice and resources available to you and your family. For more and to pre-register call DSN 476-2650 or 475-8371.

### 100th GTA celebration

The Joint Multinational Training Command invites all community members to a festive re-enactment ceremony commemorating the first round fired on the Grafenwoehr training area (GTA). The ceremony begins at 7:45 a.m., June 30.

German and U.S. crews will fire artillery downrange to honor their military partnership, as part of a series of events, from June 30 to July 4, celebrating 100 years of training Soldiers at the GTA.

Busses depart the Grafenwoehr Post Exchange (PX) parking lot at 7 a.m. Arrive no later than 6:45 a.m. Seats available on a first-come, first-serve basis. Busses will make only one trip to and from the event.

For more, visit [www.hqjmtc.army.mil](http://www.hqjmtc.army.mil).

### Military-Overseas Voters

Submit your ballot request for July and August state primaries.

The following States will hold primary elections during the months of July and August on the dates indicated.

- July 20: Georgia
- July 27: Oklahoma
- August 3: Kansas, Michigan, Missouri:
- Aug. 5: Tennessee

- Aug. 10: Colorado, Connecticut, Minnesota
- Aug. 17: Washington, Wyoming:
- August 24: Alaska, Arizona, Florida, Vermont
- August 28: Louisiana (1st Party Congressional).

For more, contact votingassistance.grafenwoehr@eur.army.mil or your unit voting officer.

### Meditation at the Chapel

Meditation classes are at 6 p.m. the first and third Monday of each month on the second floor of the Main Post Chapel Annex. Instruction in meditation is available. All welcome regardless of religious affiliation.

Wear loose, comfortable clothing and if coming for the first time arrive a few minutes early. Meditation chairs and cushions are provided.

For more, e-mail [graf.meditation@yahoo.com](mailto:graf.meditation@yahoo.com) or [grafmeditation@yahoogroups.com](mailto:grafmeditation@yahoogroups.com).

### Antiquities Weeks

More than 30 traders display international treasures from five centuries July 21-Aug. 15 in Bamberg on Sandstrasse (96047).

A stroll between Domberg and Altes Rathaus (old city hall) will give you another impression of historic Bamberg and opportunities for many good buys.

### Hiking-tour Koenigstein

Come explore the rocky and mystic wilderness of the “Steinberg” July 17, from 10 a.m.-2 p.m.

The hike will begin in the 800 year-old village Koenigstein. Relax at lunch with a Bavarian picnic and a great view over the hills near the romantic Chapel Breitenstein. Cost of \$37 includes a guided hiking tour and Bavarian picnic.

Reservation deadline is July 14. For more, call 0170-5856939.

### Youth Volleyball Camp

A DoDDS-Europe and AAU Sanctioned volleyball camp will be at Rose Barracks on the following dates.

Elementary and Middle School camp is scheduled for Aug. 18-20. Cost is \$75.

High School Camp is scheduled for Aug. 21-24. Cost is \$150.

All campers are required to have a valid physical to participate. For more or to register, e-mail Brian Swenty at [brian.swenty@eu.dodea.edu](mailto:brian.swenty@eu.dodea.edu) or [bswenty@yahoo.com](mailto:bswenty@yahoo.com).

### Hamburg and a musical

Take a trip with Leisure and Travel Services going to Germany’s second largest city, Hamburg!

Bus will leave the evening of July

9 and return the evening of July 11. Most won’t even have to take a day off!

Discover the newly renovated harbor, the city center, take advantage of a great shopping opportunity, visit the St. Pauli Red light district, get some maritime air and see the wonderful musical Tarzan!

Seats are limited. Outdoor Recreation Grafenwoehr DSN 475-7402, CIV 09641-83-7402, or in Vilseck DSN 476-2563, CIV 09662-83-2563.

### Stage Manager Workshop

Former Actors’ Equity Association Stage Manager, Heather Pangella-Gant, will teach an introductory course in the art of Stage Management July 10 from 10 a.m.-2 p.m.

She will also serve as the mentor for anyone wishing to try their hand at it for the GPAC’s Evening of One Acts performing in September.

Either way, sign up in advance to ensure your seat. Pay-as-you-go concessions will be open.

### Europe Ten-Miler

The U.S. Forces Europe Army Ten Miler is July 10 beginning at the Grafenwoehr Physical Fitness Center. Pre-register online with MWR at <https://webtrac.mwr.army.mil/webtrac/Grafenwoehrrectrac.html> by clicking on: Start a new Pre-Registration.

Signing in as a Guest gives you view option only. Open for US ID card holders only.

For more, call the Community Recreation Division at DSN 475-7576/8207.

## Hohenfels Briefs

### German fishing license

Get your German fishing license with this class, June 23-26 from 6-9 p.m. The course covers biology, legal, traditions and other host nation requirements that must be met before you obtain your German fishing license.

The cost is \$60 or \$75 for families and students must have a valid Rod and Gun Membership, \$45, to take classes.

To register, call DSN 466-2060, CIV 09472-83-2060.

### ATV course and safari

Outdoor Recreation is offering an ATV safety training course and trail rides, June 26-27. Meet at 9 a.m. at ODR, Bldg. H15. You must be 18 years old to participate.

Come dressed in pants, a long sleeved shirt and sturdy boots. If these dates do not fit your schedule ODR can offer a course for your group or unit, 6-8 people.

To register, call DSN 466-2060, CIV 09472-83-2060.

### July 4th Freedom Fest

Don’t miss this day of celebration and appreciation. The 4th of July Freedom Fest and Soldier and Family Appreciation Day offers free food, fireworks, live music, bouncers, a water slide and much more to the Soldiers and families of USAG Hohenfels.

This event, open to all U.S. I.D. cardholders, will be held on the Festplatz from 2 p.m. to midnight.

For more, call DSN 466-2060, CIV 09472-83-2060.

### Couples Communication

Army Community Service is offering a weekly couples communication workshop to make your marriage hotter and make your conflicts calmer.

With the current deployment cycle and complexity of military life, use this time to focus on building a stronger marriage, every Wednesday, 4-5:30 p.m., at ACS, Bldg. 10. For more, call DSN 466-4907, CIV 09472-83-4907.

### 50/50 Bowling Special

The Bowling Center is offering a summer-long special now through Aug. 31. Buy a 50/50 card for \$25 and get 50 games of bowling for 50 cents, a savings of 66 percent.

It’s a great way for children and families to stay entertained all summer for an affordable price.

For more, call DSN 466-4611, CIV 09472-83-4611.

### Children’s author visits

The author of “Mind Your Manners,

B.B. Wolf” and “Born to Read” will be at the library, July 19, starting at 5:45 p.m. for a children’s reading and a reading with a question and answer session for children and adults from 7-8 p.m. Don’t miss it.

For more, call DSN 466-1740, CIV 09472-83-1740.

### Motorcycle training courses

A Motorcycle Basic Riders Courses is scheduled for July 8-9 at 9 a.m. at Albertshof Hardstand #3. A Motorcycle Experienced Riders Courses is scheduled for July 29 at 9 a.m. at Albertshof Hardstand #3. Intermediate/Remedial Drivers Training Courses are scheduled for June 25, July 16 and July 30, 8-10:30 a.m., in Bldg. 46.

A Motorcycle Sport Bike Riders Course is scheduled for July 2 at 9 a.m. at Albertshof Hardstand #3.

For more information and to register, visit <https://airs.lmi.org>.

### Preschool registration

The Sure Start Preschool program at Hohenfels Elementary School is now accepting applications for the 2010-2011 school year.

Sure Start is an exemplary, research-based preschool program that serves military children and families living overseas.

Children must be 4 years old by Sept. 1, and priority is given to family members of Soldiers E-4 and below.

For more, call DSN 466-2829, CIV 09472-83-2829, or e-mail [Julie.smith@eu.dodea.edu](mailto:Julie.smith@eu.dodea.edu).

## Garmisch Briefs

Unless noted, all events meet at the Pete Burke Center.

For more on any FMWR trips, contact the Garmisch Alpine Experts at DSN 440-2638, CIV 08821-750-2638. Sign-up using the Garmisch MWR Online Services at <https://webtrac.mwr.army.mil/webtrac/Garmischrectrac.html>.

### Kaltenberg Night Show

July 10: Experience the largest medieval festival and jousting tournament in the world. This is a special night performance with amazing stunts and spectacular pyrotechnics.

This trip includes a two-course dinner and beer sampling session at the Schlossbrewery restaurant. This trip is not suitable for children! Departs at 2 p.m. Cost: \$109.

### Bavarian Sea

July 17: The Chiemsee, Germany’s

largest lake, is one of Bavaria’s most beautiful places. Two ethereal islands float on the water in the middle of the lake. One island is home to “Mad King” Ludwig’s “Mini-Versailles” castle.

The other is home to a Benedictine convent with a cozy fishing village. A perfect summer day trip. Departs at 8 a.m. Cost: \$49.

### Kaltenberg Kids Show

July 18: This daytime performance of the largest medieval festival and jousting tournament in the world with amazing stunts and spectacular pyrotechnics is suitable for all ages.

Immediately after the Knight’s Tournament finishes, the Kid’s Tournament begins! Departs at 9 a.m. Cost: Adults \$89 and children \$69.

### Conquer the Zugspitze

July 24-25: At 2,966 meters, Germany’s highest peak is 2,200 meters higher than Garmisch! We will get there in two days. Starting at the Partnachklamm, we hike up through the stunning Reintal valley.

We will stay at the Reintalangerhütte, in the morning we will be serenaded with Zither music! Sunday we climb to the Zugspitzplatt glacier. Get a great lunch or scale the harrowing “Klettersteig” to the cross. Cost is \$149.

The next trip is scheduled for Sept. 11-12.

### Schachen Overnight

August 28-29: Join us for an overnight hike to the Schachen, the King’s House built by Ludwig II of Bavaria and the least known of his palaces. Often described as a hunting lodge, Ludwig never used it for this purpose; instead he used it for birthday and anniversary celebrations. Cost is \$149.

### Urbino Long Weekend

Sept. 3-6: Visit Urbino, a true Renaissance jewel and birthplace of Raphael and Bramante. See the ducal palace, commonly regarded as one of the best structures from the Renaissance period. Visit Perugia; home of some wonderful chocolate confections, take in the magnificent views (the main thoroughfare is grand and stylish) and see the wonderful architecture. Cost is \$475.

### Top Chef Garda See

Oct. 8-11: Three nights on the lakeshore in beautiful Torri del Benaco with two days of cooking classes in a villa overlooking the lake plus wine tasting. Monday is market day - we head home stocking up on goodies and visit some vineyards on the South Tyrol Wine Road.

A foodie extravaganza! Departs 5 p.m. Cost: \$575.



**4th of July**  
**Independence Day Celebration**  
**Grafenwoehr Parade Field**

**Live Entertainment**  
**Lt. Dan Band** ..... 4 - 6:30 p.m.  
“Pop nach 8” Band ..... 7 - 10:30 p.m.  
DJ ..... 6:30 - 7 p.m. & break times

**American Food & Fun**  
Face Painting, Balloon Twisting, Magic Show by Magic Maxx

Cards Games, Chess, Checkers, Dominoes, Badminton, Horseshoes, Volleyball and Jumping Castles

**Fireworks - 10:30 p.m.**

For more information contact the Special Events Coordinator, DSN 475-6167, Civ 09641-83-6167.  
[www.grafenwoehrmwr.com](http://www.grafenwoehrmwr.com) | [www.twitter.com/GrafenwoehrMWR](http://www.twitter.com/GrafenwoehrMWR)



**CONVERSATIONS**  
**with JUDY SIERRA**

Children’s author and storyteller Judy Sierra is visiting Army Europe Libraries this July!

5:45 p.m.-6:45 p.m. Reading for Children  
7 p.m.-8 p.m. Reading with Q&A

**Tour Dates**  
July 12: Heidelberg  
July 13: Baumholder  
July 14: Kaiserslautern  
July 15: Stuttgart  
July 19: Hohenfels  
July 20: Grafenwoehr  
July 21: Schweinfurt  
July 22: Brussels

Army Europe Libraries  
For more information visit [www.library.eur.army.mil/conversations](http://www.library.eur.army.mil/conversations)



# What’s Happening

## Ansbach Briefs

### Vacation Bible School

Ready for the voyage of a lifetime? The High Seas Expedition Vacation Bible School will be held at two locations:

- Storck Chapel, July 12-16, from 3-6 p.m. Register online at [www.groupvbspro.com/vbs/ez/IllesheimVBS](http://www.groupvbspro.com/vbs/ez/IllesheimVBS)
- Katterbach Chapel, July 26-30, from 1-4 p.m. Register online at [www.groupvbspro.com/vbs/ez/katterbach](http://www.groupvbspro.com/vbs/ez/katterbach), or stop by your local chapel office to register.

Questions should be directed to the director of religious education, USAG Ansbach chaplain ministry team at DSN 467-3082, CIV 09802-833-082.

### Field of Experiences

The “Field of Experiences for the Senses” on Woehrder Wiese, with varying emphasis every year, invites visitors between May and mid September to explore the world of the senses at over 80 stations. Fifteen workshops provide hands-on experience.

- Opening hours: Now to Sept. 13, Mon-Fri, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Sat, 1-6 p.m.; Sun, 10 a.m.-6 p.m.
- Bavarian holidays: Sat, 1-6 p.m.; Sun-Friday, 10 a.m.-6 p.m.
- Admission fees:  
Families (at least 1 adult + children): Adults 5.60 euro, concessions 4 euro, children from 3 years, 3.20 euro.
- Location: Woehrder Wiese, Nuremberg, [www.kuf-kultur.de/erfahrungsfeld](http://www.kuf-kultur.de/erfahrungsfeld).

### Off post housing referral

The off-post housing referral office is currently short-staffed. If you need off-post assistance, call DSN 467-3415 to set up an appointment. Walk-ins will be assisted after appointments are seen.

### Education Center hours

For the month of June, all education centers will only offer testing services on Tuesdays and Thursdays. However, during the month of July, testing services are extremely limited and will rotate among the education centers within the footprint.

The testing schedule for July is as follows:

- Katterbach: July 1-14; 8 a.m.-4 p.m.
- Ledward: July 12-20; 8 a.m.-4 p.m.
- Bamberg: July 21-29; 8 a.m.-4 p.m.

Soldiers should contact their local education center to schedule an appointment for testing during the above dates and times. Soldiers have priority for all testing services.

College proctoring services, family members and other civilians are strongly encouraged to look into alternate proctors for college testing.

Army Education Centers will be able to provide counseling services by appointment only. Note: Counseling services are extremely limited on Fridays and training holidays.

All education centers are closed on federal holidays. Army Education Centers will continue to provide as many of the usual services as funding constraints permit.

Contact your local Army Education Center for more information.

- Ansbach (Katterbach): DSN 467-2817, CIV 09802-83-2817.
- Storck Barracks: DSN 467-4272, CIV 09841-83-4272
- Bamberg (Warner): DSN 469-7715, CIV 0951-300-7715.
- Schweinfurt (Ledward and Conn): DSN 354-6919, CIV 09721-96-6919.

### Norisring Race

July 2-4: The Norisring Race is an international motor sports event of world standing. Every year over 100,000 motor sport fans and fans of the Norisring races watch the German Touring Car Masters (DTM) on the course around the stone grandstand and Dutzendteich lake.

Location: DTM Norisring / Int. ADAC Norisring Speedweekend Am Norisring, Nuremberg.

For more information, visit [www.norisring.de](http://www.norisring.de).

### World Cup soccer

The World Cup takes place in South Africa this year, which is a big event for the German community. Everywhere you go, you will see flags and promotional items being displayed.

Many cities offer “public viewings,” a chance to watch the games live on a big screen in a public place with hundreds of other fans.

All games which are broadcast on German television, will be shown downtown Ansbach at the Reitbahn (the court yard behind the Residenz), now through July 11, when the grand finale is played.

Tables and benches will be set up with food and drink aplenty for a small price. Patrons are asked to not bring their own food and beverages.

The Brueckencenter Ansbach hosts the “Kicker-WM” (table foosball world cup) from June 24 to July 1.

Information and registration is available at the info booth of the Brueckencenter.

On July 1 and 2, boys and girls between 6 and 15 years compete for the “Speed-Soccer-Sup,” also at the Brueckencenter.

Americans in the Ansbach area are invited to join other U.S. soccer fans and attend the outdoor sports event when the United States play — assembling in front of the old Bavarian American Hotel (across from the Nuremberg Bahnhof, next to the Grand Hotel) and then walk (approximately 10 minutes) together to the event, where the big screen will be set up at the Woehrder Wiese when the game begins an hour later.

The next meeting is June 23 (meet at 4 p.m.), when the United States plays Algeria. So, bring your flags, fun, good spirits and other fan articles and get into the game.

## Schweinfurt Briefs

### Community and contact info

For more information on the latest news, upcoming events, available services and resources, or to find the right point of contact for your concern, visit us at [www.TeamSchweinfurt.com](http://www.TeamSchweinfurt.com).

### Conn Main Gate closure

Due to an annual installation force protection full scale exercise, the Conn Main Gate will be closed Saturday, June 26, from approximately 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. Community members should use the Conn West ACP or “Geldersheim Gate.”

Also be advised that during this event, notional events will take place on Conn Barracks simulating increased force protection condition.

There will be many Soldiers in full uniform and various roads will be closed to through traffic.

### ODR trips & programs

Outdoor Recreation offers various trips and programs for all community members. Visit the Geiselwind Park, Bavaria’s leading amusement park featuring rides, shows and more entertainment, June 26, or take a trip to the Wasserkuppe with them, seeking history at the cold war and outdoor museums, ride a unique rollercoaster and exploring the Kreuzberg monastery and their famous beer, July 10.

Don’t want to wait until the next trip? Ready for some outdoor fun right away? Try Redball every Tuesday through Friday, from noon-2 p.m.

For more, call DSN 353-8080, CIV 09721-96-8080.

### Free Fitness Classes

Kessler Fitness Center offers free fitness classes throughout June and July, including Bootcamp Spinning, Tuesdays and Thursdays at noon; Circuit Challenge, Tuesdays and Thursdays at 3:30 p.m.; Spinning, Wednesdays at 6 p.m.; Pilates Tuesdays at 6 p.m., and Wednesdays at noon; and Power Yoga, Thursdays at 6 p.m.

Pre- and Postnatal Fitness is available upon request. For more, call DSN 354-6735, CIV 09721-96-6735.

### DeCA/AAFES forum

The next quarterly AAFES/DeCA forum will be held June 29 at the garrison conference room in Bldg. 206 on Ledward Barracks, starting at 9 a.m.

The forum provides the opportunity for everyone to voice their concerns regarding services provided by the commissary, AAFES and Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation facilities.

### CYSS Summer Programs

Child, Youth and School Services offers various free youth programs throughout summer. Register by

June 29 for the Art Edge clay course, July 6-9, and let your creativity mold your projects. Register until July 5 for the Get Fit Edge, held July 12-16, to enjoy some fitness fun.

All programs are scheduled from 3-5 p.m. and open to youth grades 6-12. Each program begins and ends at the Youth Center and transportation is provided.

For more information, a complete list of events or to sign up, call DSN 354-6414, CIV 09721-96-6414.

### Library events

Ledward Library offers various programs regularly in June and July. Enjoy Children’s Story Time & Crafts every Wednesday at 1 p.m. or join the Zeens for Teens & Edge Meetings, Wednesdays from 6-7 p.m.

Also, a Soldier In-Processing Class is held every Wednesday at 9:30 a.m.

For more, call DSN 354-1740, CIV 09721-96-1740.

### Library Book Club

The Ledward Library invites you to the next meeting of their adult book club, June 30, at 5:15 p.m. The book title is “Heretics” by Kathleen Kent. Coffee, tea and treats will be served.

For more, call DSN 354-1740, CIV 09721-96-1740.

### Fourth of July celebration

USAG Schweinfurt invites the entire community to celebrate Independence Day, July 4, at Kessler Field, starting at noon.

The event will feature various bands, the World of Wheels car show, rides and kids’ activities, fireworks and more.

Food and beverages are available for purchase. Bring your own blankets, canopies and lawn chairs, but no glass bottles or pets. A valid photo ID is required for admission.

For more, call DSN 354-6762, CIV 09721-96-6762.

### World of Wheels car show

The second annual car show “World of Wheels” will be held during the festivities of Independence Day at Kessler Field, July 4.

Registration is open from 8 a.m. to noon, the show begins at noon and judging will end at 6 p.m. Awards will be presented for various categories starting at 7 p.m.

For more, call DSN 353-8224, CIV 09721-96-8224.

### Arts & Crafts Contest

Enter your best artwork now by July 5 to compete for cash prizes against the best artists and artisans in the 2010 U.S. Army Arts & Crafts contest.

Information on rules, entry forms and more can be obtained at the Schweinfurt Crafts Studio, Bldg. 203, on Ledward Barracks.

For more, call DSN 354-6903, CIV 09721-96-6903.

### BOSS events & special trip

The award-winning Better Opportunities for Single Soldiers program offers

numerous programs monthly. Join them for a movie night every Tuesday starting at 6 p.m.

Bring your own movie, or watch one from their collection. Show your skills in pool, Xbox, Wii, PS3 and more and compete in the BOSS Tournament Nights, every Thursday starting at 6 p.m.

The next BOSS meeting will be held July 6 at 2 p.m. All events are held at the Finney Recreation Center on Conn Barracks, Bldg. 64. Register now for a BOSS trip to Berlin and experience Tropical Island, July 9-11.

For more information or a complete list of upcoming events, call DSN 353-8234, CIV 09721-96-8234.

### Beginner’s Swim Course

Many children love playing with water and being in water. While swimming pools are great fun in summer, parents should also be aware of the risks. Children who are able to swim are by far less endangered to drowning.

To teach children swim properly and train them for safe water fun, SKIES offers another two weeks beginner’s swim course for children of the ages 5 to 12 at the swimming pool in Schonungen, starting July 12. The cost of \$89 covers the complete two week course with eight meetings.

For more, call DSN 354-6414, CIV 09721-96-6414.

### Community Blood Drive

The next community blood drive will be held July 14 at the Finney Fitness Center, from 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Donate and save a life.

The event is hosted by the 44th Expeditionary Signal Battalion and the 15th Engineer Battalion.

For more, call DSN 354-2738, CIV 09721-96-2738.

### Trip to the Stuttgart Zoo

Sign up now through July 14 at the Finney Recreation Center for a trip to the Stuttgart Zoo, July 24.

Enjoy the only zoological botanical garden in Europe which once was a private retreat for a king.

For more, call DSN 353-8476, CIV 09721-96-8476.

### Super Saturday child care

Register now through July 16 for the next Super Saturday, July 24, 9:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m. Children must have current CYSS registration and immunizations at time of reservation.

For more, call DSN 354-6517, CIV 09721-96-6517.

U.S. Forces Europe

Army Ten Miler

10 July

Grafenwoehr Physical Fitness Center

**Pre-Register at** <https://webtrac.mwr.army.mil/webtrac/Grafenwoehrrectrac.html>

Step 1: Register with MWR Online Services - click on: Start a new Pre-Registration \*

Step 2: Upon receipt of password, enroll in applicable 10 Miler Category

**POC:** USAG Grafenwoehr Community Recreation, DSN 475-8207, CIV 09641-83-8207.

U.S. ID Card Holders - Active Duty Military, DoD Civilians, Family Members 18 years and older

\* Signing in as a Guest gives you view option only!

No Federal Endorsement Implied

USAG SCHWEINFURT

INDEPENDENCE DAY CELEBRATION

Sun, July 4, Kessler Field

12 P.M.	ROCK, LATIN & VARIETY BANDS BEGIN
	FOOD & BEVERAGES FOR SALE
12-7 P.M.	WORLD OF WHEELS CAR SHOW
12-10:30 P.M.	RIDES & KIDS’ ACTIVITIES
9:45 P.M.	STATE FLAGS CEREMONY
10:30 P.M.	FIREWORKS

Questions? Call 09721-96-6762/DSN 354-6762. Bring blankets, canopies & lawn chairs. Valid photo ID required for admission. No glass bottles or pets. All bags subject to search.

WANT TO BE AN INDEPENDENCE DAY VIP?

ENTER OUR CONTEST:

LOOK FOR “USAG SCHWEINFURT FMWR”





Photo by Kristin Bradley

**Above: Though Sinai offers plenty of active and sight-seeing activities, lounging by your hotel’s pool is another tempting option. The Eden Rock Hotel, just minutes off the strip and overlooking the Naama Bay, is a perfect option for the budget-conscious traveler still looking for a quiet, comfortable stay.**

Egypt boasts more spectacular sights than just pyramids

by Kristin Bradley  
*USAG Hohenfels Public Affairs*

Each year, millions of tourists flock to Egypt for its warm climate and historical sites. Though many gather in Cairo to catch a glimpse of the country’s famous pyramids, to the east of Cairo lies another vacation destination popular with Europeans but not yet as well known to Americans — a place where tourists can still easily visit the popular pyramids and also have access to numerous other cultural sites, lively beaches and some of the best scuba diving in the world.

Sharm el-Sheikh, at the tip of the Sinai Peninsula where the Gulf of Aqaba and the Gulf of Suez join the Red Sea, grew from a sparsely populated desert location into a major tourist destination much the same way as the lights of Las Vegas rise from nothing to create a mecca of tourism. However unlike Vegas, Sharm’s growth was born of a naturally occurring attraction: the vibrant corals and diverse marine life beneath the sea that for decades have drawn scuba divers from all over the world.

About a three-and-a-half hour plane ride from Munich to Cairo and another hour from Cairo, Sharm el-Sheikh is one of a string of resort towns along what has been dubbed the Red Sea Riviera. The towns are popular destinations for both Europeans and Middle Easterners and on the promenade at night an eclectic mix of people gather, including children and adults, young singles and families, western women in sundresses and Muslim women in headscarves.

In Naama Bay, one of Sharm’s central locations, posh western-style hotels and American chain restaurants mean you will not get an authentic, culturally Egyptian experience, though what you will get is a location perfect as a base for any number of activities including sightseeing, scuba diving, hiking or just relaxing on the beach.

For scuba divers, rich coral formations, amazing underwater diversity and easily accessible wrecks have made the Red Sea one of the top dive sites in the world. The Thistlegorm, named one of the top 10 best wreck dive

sites in the world, is a popular dive trip from Sharm as are sites inside Ras Mohammed National Park and around Tiran Island.

While experienced divers are still drawn to Sharm year after year, beginners and first timers can also take advantage of the area. Naama Bay is filled with dive centers that offer introductory dives as well as certification courses for beginners or those looking to gain advanced or specialty certifications.

One of Naama Bay’s most respected dive centers, Red Sea Diving College, [www.redseacollege.com](http://www.redseacollege.com), was awarded the Professional Association of Diving Instructors (PADI) center of excellence and voted the best dive center in the world by Diver magazine readers for the past four years. Red Sea Diving College offers an introductory dive on its house reef for 45 euros and even children as young as 8 can experience scuba diving with the PADI bubblemaker program. New divers who wish to earn their PADI open water certification can do so by taking the five-day course for 345 euros.

Though much of Sharm el-Sheikh tourism revolves around diving, there is certainly plenty to do for nondivers. The area boasts many bars and restaurants and though in a Muslim country, alcohol is served at most establishments. The beaches are clean and offer smooth sand, a change from the rocky beaches around much of the Mediterranean. Many dive boats welcome nondivers on their day trips to swim and snorkel for about 35 euros for a full day. This is a wonderful way to see the beautiful Sinai coastline and the mountains rising up behind it.

In addition to all the activities the Red Sea has to offer, Sharm el-Sheikh is also a convenient location from which to visit some of the world’s most fascinating historical sites. Instead of planning a whole separate leg of your journey to see the pyramids, travel agencies offer trips to the pyramids from Sharm by plane for around 170 euros. This one-day excursion is well worth the price over a lengthy bus ride (also offered from Sharm) or the hassle of planning an additional stop in Cairo into your itinerary. Trips are also offered to Luxor, Jerusalem and Petra, an archeological city in Jordan.

The active tourist can book an excursion to Mount

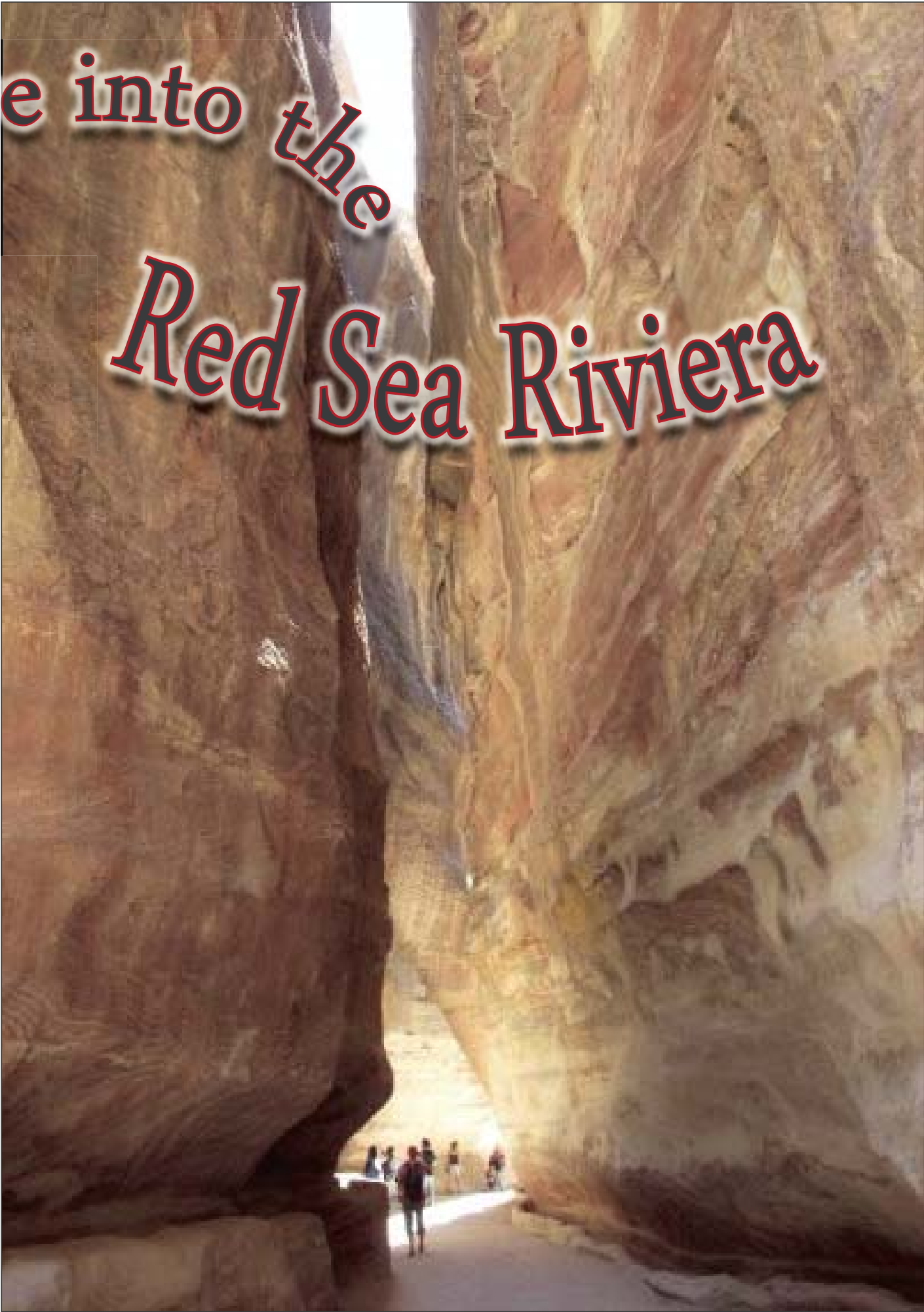


Photo by Capt. Skip Kawalak

**Tour operators throughout Sharm el-Sheikh offer tours into the mountains and canyons in the region.**

Sinai, also known as Moses Mountain, said to be where God gave Moses the Ten Commandments. Many trips to Mt. Sinai start with a two-to three-hour bus ride in the early morning, then a hike to the top of the mountain in time to see the sun rise. Many of these excursions also take in St. Catharine’s Monastery, a 17-century-old Greek Orthodox monastery, possibly the oldest continuously inhabited Christian monastery.

Tour operators also offer shorter day and half-day trips, including ATV rides in the desert, a jeep safari in the canyons, a bus trip to Ras Mohammed National Park and more.

While Sharm el-Sheikh, with its world-famous diving and proximity to some of the world’s most popular archeological and historical sites, has the potential to be one of those trips-of-a-lifetime and is typically much cheaper and more accessible from Europe than from the United States, it does require some advance planning and a bit of caution.

Service members must obtain a special country clearance to visit Egypt and may need one for neighboring

countries as well.

For more information on obtaining a country clearance, Soldiers should visit their unit’s S2 office well before making travel arrangements.

Also, Sinai has tragically been the site of terrorist activity in the past, including high profile bombings in 2005 and 2006 and tourists therefore should take extra precautions when visiting. Before departing, obtain updated travel tips and safety information on the U.S. State Department website, [www.travel.state.gov](http://www.travel.state.gov). Here, travelers can complete a travel registration, which puts the traveler on a list to receive important security updates. According to the site, a travel registration will also make it easier for consular officers to contact the traveler during an emergency — including situations where family or friends in the United States are having problems contacting the traveler with important news.

For most Americans currently living in Europe, Sharm el-Sheikh is more accessible now than it will ever be again, and with some prior planning it can be an unforgettable experience you’ll be talking about for years to come.

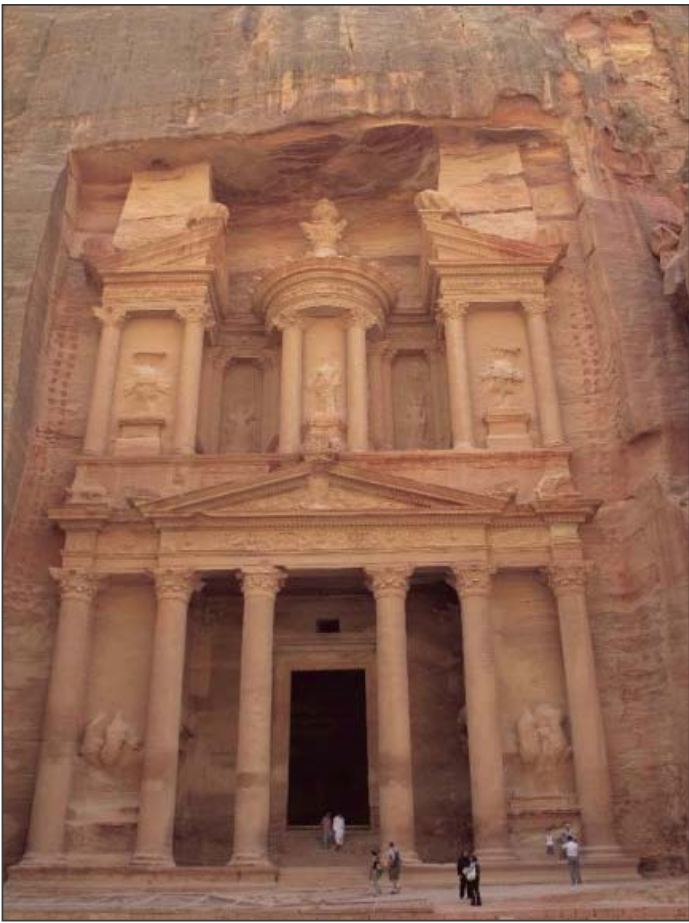


Photo by Capt. Skip Kawalak

**Petra, an archeological city in Jordan, is one of many day trips offered from Sharm el-Sheikh.**



# U.S., Germany pair up for annual exercise

Story and photos by

**Sgt. 1st Class Tyrone Walker**  
*Joint Multinational Readiness Center*  
*Public Affairs*

At times this year's annual Operation Open Gate in the Hohenfels Training Area looked like a scene yanked off a battlefield in Vietnam. On this morning, five UH-1 Hueys swept into a valley and touched down in a landing zone outside of a small village. About two dozen soldiers with weapons in hand piled out of the helicopters, fading into the surrounding grassy field. Just as quickly as the thunderous helicopters had landed, they took off and disappeared over the surrounding hilltop.

The German soldiers in this air movement exercise were not foot soldiers. Rather, they were members of the 472nd Logistics Battalion, a German reserve unit from Holzheim. For many of the soldiers who hopped off the helicopters before conducting a vehicle rescue mission in a mock Afghan village, the experience at the Joint Multinational Readiness Center was something they had waited for all year.

"This is the highlight of the year," said Lance Cpl. Hubert Speer of the 472nd Logistics Battalion. "We get a lot of training, but nothing like this."

The German reserve and American Soldiers paired up for the 8th annual air movement exercise at JMRC

during Operation Open Gate in the Hohenfels Training Area.

The German-American exercise involved JMRC pilots, Grizzly Team Observer-Control trainers and 48 German reservists from the Logistics Battalion. Hosted by JMRC's Falcons Aviation Support Observer-Controller Trainer team, the exercise continued the German-American partnership between JMRC and reserve component units of the Bundeswehr in communities that surround Hohenfels.

"They help us as much as we help them," said Maj. Jonathan Tackaberry, Falcons Aviation Team executive officer.

Two platoons from the logistic battalion each completed the air movement and vehicle recovery mission. Still, there was more to the exercise than two dramatic combat air movements aboard helicopters. It also required the German soldiers to make their way into a populated Afghan village to talk with civilian leaders in an effort to locate and retrieve a disabled vehicle. To turn things up a notch, JMRC scenario planners included sniper fire, which required the German soldiers to use platoon level combat tactics and procedures to neutralize the sniper.

With the chance that some of the Germans will deploy someday to Afghanistan, many of the soldiers viewed the exercise as an introduc-



Members of the 472nd Logistics Battalion, a German reserve unit, arrive aboard UH-1 Hueys to conduct a vehicle recovery mission in a replicated Afghan village in the Hohenfels Training Area, May 25.

**Right: Capt. Keith Tyler of the Grizzly Observer-Control team conducts an after-action review with members of the 472nd Logistics Battalion, a German reserve unit, after the soldiers completed a vehicle recovery mission in a replicated Afghan village in the Hohenfels training area, May 25.**

tion to American-styled counterinsurgency operations.

"If you're going to Afghanistan, you need to know this," said Lt.

Markus Koch of the 472nd Logistics Battalion.

At the end of the day, Grizzly Team Observer-Control Trainer Capt. Keith



Tyler, who led after-action reviews with each platoon, praised the Germans' effort. "They did pretty good," he said.

## Environmental team manages training, conservation

The second article in a three-part series about environmental management at U.S. Army Garrison Hohenfels

Story and photo by

**Kristin Bradley**

*USAG Hohenfels Public Affairs*

Tank trails and roads cut across the 40,000 acres of the Hohenfels Training Area, dusty brown ribbons that vehicles use to carry Soldiers, munitions and equipment through a simulated war zone for multinational military training.

While the words "military training" evoke many different mental images, a flourishing symbiotic relationship with the natural environment is probably not one of the most common. However, according to Dr. Albert Boehm, an environmental engineer with the U.S. Army Garrison Hohenfels Department of Public Works Environmental Division, the Hohenfels Training Area is a haven for many threatened and endangered species of plants and animals that have a home not in spite of, but actually because of the presence of military training.

According to Boehm, the training area – free from agricultural, residential and economic development – provides habitats no longer found outside its borders.

"Because of the military training here this area is representative of what it was like decades ago," said Boehm. "There are very few areas left that are similar."

And it is not just keeping modern civilization out that has created a flourishing ecosystem; Boehm said the training itself actually aids in maintaining biodiversity.

"Almost every meter off post is used for agriculture, forestry or other economic development, here you have some disorder," said Reiner Buettner, a zoologist at the USAG Hohenfels Environmental Division.

For example, Buettner said disturbances such as potholes formed by tanks end up creating a vital habitat for the endangered yellow-bellied toad. Hohenfels is home to one of the largest populations of this species that, due to modern practices, cannot find a viable habitat in many other locations.



Geo-ecologist Arnbjorn Rudolph surveys a small square of land for U.S. Army Garrison Hohenfels Department of Public Works Environmental Division, June 10.

The Hohenfels Training Area is also home to one of the largest populations of woodlarks, another endangered species that according to Buettner is close to extinct in the rest of Bavaria. The birds are dependent upon the naturally haphazard habitat that occurs in transition zones between open landscapes and forests, a habitat not found many places outside the training area where the line between farmland and woodland is kept strict and clean.

The yellow-bellied Toad and the woodlark are just two examples; many habitats that endangered species rely on are rarely found off-post and thus Hohenfels offers these species a kind of oasis, said Buettner.

In all, the training area is home to more than 3,000 species of plants, animals and insects with close to 900 of those considered endangered or threatened. Scientists with the Environmental Division said it is believed some can now be found only in the Hohenfels Training Area.

The level of diversity in the training area is considered so significant that in 2001 large sections were designated as a European Flora Fauna Habitat.

"Up to 20 years ago we had a negative view of military training (as it affects the environment), but what we now know is that the training actually keeps the diversity," said Boehm. "It is a very important balance between military training and nature conservation."

To maintain that balance, Boehm and other members of the Environmental Division administer the garrison's natural resources program and ensure the area is in compliance with the reams of regulations that come along with the Flora Fauna Habitat designation.

Recently, an Environmental Performance Assessment System team from Installation Management Command-Europe inspected Hohenfels' environmental program and listed the natural resources program as one of the divi-

sion's top performers, noting its exceptional work managing biodiversity.

According to Boehm, managing the natural environment means working closely with military training units.

"Our number one goal is to support the training and we work together to balance activities in the box with their environmental impact," said Boehm.

That means not only constantly monitoring the habitats and species on post, but also suggesting ways the units can minimize the impact on them or finding ways to compensate for an impact that is unavoidable, said Boehm.

Capt. James Davis, Joint Multinational Readiness Center Troop Construction Program, coordinates engineering projects in the training area and said the Environmental Division is one of the first places he calls when he has a new project.

Davis said he works with the division to get feedback on how a project will impact the land and vegetation.

"I think the Army has learned over time that you have to take care of the training environment. It is important to look to the future when acting so when you look 20 years down the road it will still be viable," said Davis.

"In most cases environmental requirements and military requirements go together," said Buettner. "For example, the military wants to keep the grass low for visibility (so tanks can see things like sink holes or markers designating off-limits areas) and environmental wants to keep the grass low to help support habitats and species that need new growth vegetation."

"What we've found out is that protecting an area doesn't mean you put a fence up and don't use it, but keep it as it is used to protect the species," said Boehm. "They are connected and it is our job to find a way to fulfill both needs."

*Editor's Note: The third part of this series, a look at what individuals can do to help conserve natural resources, will appear in the July 7 issue of the Bavarian News.*

## Ukrainian military tours Hohenfels' Readiness Center

by **Sgt. 1st Class Tyrone Walker**  
*Joint Multinational Readiness Center*  
*Public Affairs*

A Ukrainian military delegation recently visited the Joint Multinational Readiness Center for a military-to-military exchange, looking for ideas to help modernize their country's armed forces.

Hosted by the Vampire Fire Support Observer Controller Trainer Team, six members of the Ukrainian Land forces spent two days talking with military training planners and touring training facilities at JMRC.

Ukraine participates in the NATO's Partnership for Peace Planning and Review Process, which jointly develops goals for shaping force structure and capabilities to help countries like the Ukraine meet their objectives for interoperability with the alliance.

Ukrainian military leaders said their country continues to strive toward forming a modern armed force that will meet all European standards in military training, efficiency, equipment and protection. The modernization will also enhance the country's military interoperability with NATO

forces for joint participation in NATO-led operations, military leaders said.

Col. Vouk Andrii, chief of Ukraine's Planning and Review Process, said establishing an Observer-Control Training system similar to what JMRC uses would help train Ukraine troops as the country pushes toward meeting NATO military standards.

Andrii said he was impressed with the supplies, equipment and training support JMRC provides to troops who train here. The Ukraine has training centers but they are not as

equipped as JMRC, he said.

"We basically want to upgrade our training centers," Andrii said.

Maj. Laronov Artem, deputy chief of Ukrainian Land Forces Mobile Simulations Training Group, was particularly interested in the JMRC simulation training center. What he learned about equipment, documents and procedures used here would help improve his own military's simulations training, he said.

"We don't extensively use video training or record radio communications," Artem said.

The Ukrainian visit follows on the

footsteps of a recent JMRC trip to the Ukraine, where a small team of Vampire Observer-Control trainers visited a Ukrainian training center.

Lt. Col. John Dunleavy, senior leader of the Vampire OC-T, said the discussions with the Ukrainian delegations were extremely productive.

"It was a very open exchange with very candid comments back and forth," he said.

Dunleavy said many of the Ukrainian military leaders' questions related to JMRC tactics, techniques and procedures that would help them refine and improve their own training.



# Unique upbringing asset for graduates

Valedictorian cites challenges, triumphs her class experienced while growing up in military families

by Kristin Bradley  
*USAG Hohenfels Public Affairs*

The Hohenfels Middle High School graduating class of 2010 is odd in many ways.

They're odd enough to have grown up as military children in a nation where only one percent of the population serves in the armed forces, but they're even odd among other graduating classes of predominantly military children.

Almost half of them, 18 of the 40 graduating seniors, have attended HMHS since middle school, an oddity for the ever-transitioning Army family.

Add to that the fact that most have spent at least part of their formative teen years traveling Europe and the HMHS Class of 2010 is far from ordinary.

That uniqueness, however, is something Victoria Nelson, valedictorian, and Jazmine Calhoun, salutatorian, both said has been an asset so far and will continue to be an advantage as they look toward the future following their commencement ceremony, June 11.



Photo by Morrisa Booker

**Members of the Hohenfels Middle High School Class of 2010 listen to Victoria Nelson, class valedictorian, present her commencement speech during the graduation ceremony in Burglengenfeld, Germany, June 11. Nearly half of the 40 graduating seniors have attended HMHS since middle school.**

"I think living in Europe has provided us with the chance to get a big perspective on the world and has made us more open minded," said Calhoun. "In the states you say 'I have a driver's license and I can go

state to state' whereas here we say 'I have a passport and I can go country to country.' We've had the opportunity to see other cultures, and not just in Europe."

Both girls said that while living in Europe has brought many rewards, it

also will mean some additional hurdles when it comes time to make the transition between high school and college.

"Most people go from their parent's house to the dorm room and from high school to college, but we

also have to go from Germany to America and a lot of us are pretty Germanized," said Nelson. She said growing up in a military family has given her a better-than-average ability to cope with change.

"In a military family you have to be prepared, you have to face reality sooner I think and are forced to mature faster," said Calhoun. "It's about coping and accepting and knowing you can't change it. It's a lot of lemons and lemonade for military kids and you have to make it work. Sometimes it will be sweet and sometimes it will be sour, but you have to drink it anyway."

While Nelson and Calhoun said they have become who they are through the highs and lows of life in the military and wouldn't change it if they could, they also said though life in a small school like Hohenfels can have its challenges, they wouldn't change that experience either.

"We're really lucky here – there are no security concerns, you get a lot of one-on-one attention and they drill it into your head that you can have a better future. You don't get those things at a lot of schools in the states. You're not just a number here," said Calhoun.

"After spending so many years together we're all really close," said Nelson, "and when you get used to having to say goodbye so much (as friends move away) you learn it's not goodbye, it's see ya later."

# Hohenfels students earn spot at competition

Story and photo by  
**Kristin Bradley**  
*USAG Hohenfels Public Affairs*

Each year, more than half a million students across the United States participate in National History Day, an academic competition that challenges students to conduct extensive research on a topic to present to classmates, teachers and judges.

Of those half million students, only about 2,400 made it through the levels of local and regional competition to the annual National History Day contest at the University of Maryland, College Park, June 13-17.

This year, a team of three sixth-grade students from Hohenfels won a place in the national competition to showcase their display against students from schools throughout the United States, Guam, American Samoa and Department of Defense Schools in Europe.

Though the logistical constraints of living a continent away prevented them from actually attending nationals, 12-year-olds Patrick Barnett, Griffin Eiser and Connor Gray said they are still be proud of their accomplishment making it to the national level during their first year participating in the competition.

"When there are students doing it for the first time and making it to nationals like Hohenfels, I say that's awesome," said Yvonne Jefferson-Humes, project officer for National History Day and instructional systems specialist for social studies for DoDDS-Europe. "When you're in sixth-grade and you're headed to nationals, that's a high honor."

For this year's theme, "Innovation in History: Impact and Change," the boys chose to



**(From left to right) Patrick Barnett, Connor Gray and Griffin Eiser set up their National History Day project in their sixth-grade classroom at Hohenfels Elementary School. The three boys won second place at the European level of the National History Day competition for their project on prosthetic limbs called "Lost and Found."**

research prosthetic limbs, calling their project "Lost and Found."

"When we first starting thinking of ideas to go with the theme we were thinking of things like TVs, iPods and phones but decided we wanted to do something less common," said Eiser.

Gray said the boys, all of whose fathers are active duty Soldiers, were also interested in the topic because of its connection to the military.

The threesome said they gathered research by reading books, sifting through medical and

historical information, reading online blogs for amputees and conducting an interview with a medical professional who specializes in helping amputees adjust to life with their prosthesis.

Barnett said throughout their research the team learned not just about how the devices work or how they have evolved over time, but also about how a prosthetic limb affects the life of the amputee, his family and his friends.

Tracy Stockdale, a sixth-grade teacher at Hohenfels Elementary School, said the boys then had to turn their research into a display

board with 500 words or less, a 500-word process paper and an annotated bibliography with primary and secondary sources.

Stockdale said though this was not the first year students at Hohenfels have completed National History Day projects, it was the first year the entire sixth-grade participated.

Barnett, Gray and Eiser won first place among the Hohenfels students, then traveled to compete at the Department of Defense Dependents Schools district level, where they won again. The boys then moved on to the European competition, where they placed second in their category (students in grades 6 through 12 could present their project in the form of a paper, an exhibit, a performance, a documentary or a website), and earned a slot at nationals.

Stockdale said the students finished their projects completely in school, working an hour each day for two months and spending the entire day on their exhibits for two weeks before an open house when they presented their work to parents and teachers.

Though all the Hohenfels students spent months on their projects, Eiser said he thinks it was his group's solid research that took them all the way to nationals.

"We just focused on the project, on doing research versus just making something that stood out. For us, it (trips to the district and European competitions) was not just an excuse to miss school, we really wanted to do well," said Eiser as Barnett and Gray agreed.

Though all three boys said they were disappointed they could not make it to nationals this year and will not all be together for the competition next year, they all also agreed they cannot wait to try to test their skills again in 2011.

## State Fair held at Hohenfels Elementary

Dorothee Mayag, center, shows Gabi Lopez, left, and Sue Lopez, right, her exhibit about Pennsylvania during the Hohenfels Elementary School's State Fair, June 3. Each fourth-grader at Hohenfels Elementary researched a state and then created an interactive exhibit, including a state recipe to sample, to show classmates and parents during the fair.

Photo by Kristin Bradley

## Soldiers of the Quarter

Spc. Carrington Walker and Spc. Timothy Murray are the Joint Multinational Readiness Center and the Joint Multinational Training Command's Soldier of the Quarter for the second and third quarter of fiscal year 2010. The Association of the United States Army presented Walker and Murray, traffic controllers with JMRC Falcon Aviation Observer Controller Team, with \$50 savings bonds.

Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Tyrone Walker



# ‘Doula-dads’ experience simulated pregnancy

Story and photos by

**Sylvia Metzger**

*USAG Garmisch*

*New Parent Support Program*

Let's face it: most guys are dragged to childbirth classes by their wives along with the pillows, blankets and other baby-friendly gear.

*"You're going, honey ... it's a one-day crash course ... it only takes eight hours ... it's today, Saturday ... aren't you excited?"*

With the due date around the corner, the future moms get more anxious.

And the future dads? They are dreading the breathing techniques and birth videos, and wonder if they will pass out or still keep their cool, yet somehow by the end of the classes, everything changes. Friends and family marvel at their accomplishments as they master hands-on comfort measures, demonstrate hip squeeze, sacral pressure and "hee-hee-hoo" breathing in their sleep and can talk about heartburn and mucous plug at a pool party.

Dr. Reed Markham once said: "Being a great father is like shaving. No matter how good you shaved today, you have to do it again tomorrow."

Some men attending childbirth preparation classes and learning how to be supportive of their families through birth are intimidated by the idea of needing to "shave every day," but many others wish to start even before the baby is born. Their eyes widen as they hold the pelvic and baby models to simulate giving birth, demon-

strating a baby's precise journey.

*"All right, chin-to-chest flexion for optimal head-pelvic diameter, internal rotation, get him under that pubic arch ... ah, I did it. See honey, this is easy! You can do it!"*

Few things are more rewarding than watching fathers-in-training develop trust in their partner's inborn wisdom to birth and instilling the sense of trust. By this stage the mother is glowing.

When the New Parent Support Program began in Garmisch last October it was apparent that the garrison's expectant dads were tough Soldiers and civilians, full of muscles, and amazingly involved in all aspects of parenting. Staff Sgt. James Tolley, a military working dog handler, was one of the dads who donned the 35-pound simulated pregnancy empathy belly, and then breezily raised the bar by doing pull ups.

"Yeah. Just try wearing it for nine months!" said his wife Maureen, grinning as she watched him hang from the pull-up bar and privately thrilled by his enthusiasm and support. "He's a keeper."

Tolley was so supportive during the actual birth that he could be hired as a local doula, a Greek word for one who provides nonmedical support to mothers during labor. A study found that women with doulas had shorter labors, required less pain medication and artificial hormones to induce or speed up the process, and had less cesarean deliveries.

Subway manager Ron Grandl,

whose second son was born a few weeks ago, smiles when friends make positive comments about a photo of him wearing empathy belly on display in the lobby of Army Community Service.

"I'm just amazed what my wife Rhue went through to have our son. She's incredible," said Grandl.

Only five days after the Grandl's baby was born, Pfc. Travis and Gina Watts welcomed their first baby. The Watts' were new arrivals to Garmisch and their baby made his way to the world before the military policeman had a chance to try the empathy belly, but he wore it anyway just like Tolley and Grandl. Watts' involvement in every aspect of Gina's pregnancy was incredible. He brought Gina to the New Parent Support Program the first week after they arrived in Garmisch from stateside, and the couple did everything together to learn about breastfeeding, differences in birth practices in the local klinikum versus the United States, and even listened to various infant cries to help them read their newborn's nonverbal cues easier.

"We are really surprised that ACS offers all this in such a small place," said Watts as she checked out informational posters on the office door about infant massage classes, playgroups and stroller walks.

Watts was there throughout the childbirth to witness his son Travis Austin Jr. take his first breath.

The Garmisch Provost Sergeant was on board in support of expectant Garmisch moms, too. Wearing a



(Clockwise from top left) Staff Sgt. James and Maureen Tolley support each other just days before their baby was born. Pfc. Travis Watts does physical training while wearing the empathy belly. Ron and Rhue Grandl share the load before the arrival of their second baby.

"Hanna Montana" wig with the empathy belly stripped over his muscular torso for a community baby shower skit, Sgt. 1st Class Scott Herring made the event's best looking "pregnancy" as he entertained a crowd of expectant moms. Herring, who is also a father and understands the anxiety of childbirth, went an extra mile for one of his Soldiers.

Any man can be a father, but it takes someone special to be a dad. Happy Father's Day to all of the great Garmisch dads who wore the empathy belly to experience being momentarily pregnant.

*Editor's Note: Sylvia Metzger is a registered nurse and the manager of New Parent Support Program in Garmisch.*

## Youth learn bike safety basics

Story and photo by

**John Reese**

*USAG Garmisch Public Affairs*

What began as a simple request from the garrison safety officer to the Garmisch PX manager for AAFES support to a motorcycle rodeo and poker run (coming up this Saturday, June 26) transformed a formerly dry bicycle safety classroom session into two hours of fun in the PX/commissary parking lot for garrison kids, June 12.

With the help of FMWR's ballpark line marker and a fresh bag of chalk, "Safetyman" laid out the course and blocked off the one-day-range with tape. Under a sunny day, the children arriving early couldn't wait to get started and stayed until the course ended at noon.

"I first approached PX Manager Annette Montgomery for help with the motorcycle safety day on June 26, and she asked for help with a bicycle safety day for our children," said Andy "Safetyman" Tuerk, garrison safety officer.

"We look for opportunities to partner with other garrison activities," explained Montgomery. "When I asked Mr. Tuerk about bicycle safety, he quickly arranged this class."

Montgomery welcomed the children before they began, and then stayed to watch along with the garrison provost sergeant, who appropriately arrived on a police bicycle.

Tuerk had made note of a Polizei van he'd seen around town that advertised a Jugendverkehrsschule (youth traffic safety school), a travelling classroom complete with bikes, traffic signs and lights, and an instructor. Ever one to advance



Children of the Garmisch community learn bicycle safety courtesy of the local Polizei and AAFES. Observing and coaching in the center are Sgt. 1st Class Scott Herring, Polizeihauptkommissar Hubert Schweiger, AAFES Manager Annette Montgomery and Safety Officer Andy Tuerk.

safety training, Tuerk contacted the police and made arrangements for the mobile school to visit Artillery Kaserne.

The ongoing "Fight the Risk" safety campaign stresses that children are the weakest group in traffic, and this can be seen in the many bike accidents of schoolchildren ages 10-16, said Tuerk.

"We offered this class to make sure our students know more about how to safely ride a bicycle in Germany, to be mindful of their actions in traffic," Tuerk explained.

This wasn't the full formal class, added Tuerk, but a two-hour version especially for the American kids.

"This is how we do it in Germany," said Tuerk. "Today is only a sample of the eight-hour class."

The class was taught by Polizeihauptkommissar Hubert

Schweiger, a senior Polizei officer in Garmisch-Partenkirchen.

"It is mandatory for (German) fourth-graders to take an eight-hour bicycle safety class with a test at the end," said Schweiger, who had fun teaching the American kids about German traffic safety. He moved about the course offering corrections to kids who ran red lights or stop signs.

A few adults watching played pedestrians at the intersections, and kids visiting the garrison from other communities were invited to use one of the provided bikes to join in. More than a few grown-ups looked on wistfully; safety training was never this much fun when they were kids.

At noon the course closed and AAFES treated the participants to ice cream, a sweet ending helping the lessons learned to become safety habits.

## Happy Birthday, U.S. Army



Photo by Karlheinz Wedhorn

Sgts. Su Wan Ko, Elia Tautua and Matthew Jeffers hang campaign streamers on the Army flag for the Army's 235th birthday celebration at the George C. Marshall European Center for Security Studies, June 14. In keeping with tradition the oldest and youngest George C. Marshall Center Soldiers, retired Brig. Gen. (Dr.) John Reppert and Spc. Justin Wagoner used a saber to cut the Army birthday cake. The party took place in the plenary building on Sheridan Kaserne.

**USAG Garmisch Motorcycle Safety Day**  
Poker Run, rodeo, food, fun and more on the motorcycle safety training range on Artillery Kaserne Saturday, June 26, 10-4.

*We are the Army's home*



For details and registration please contact the USAG Garmisch Safety Office at DSN 440-3595

### Go home!

Visit the U.S. Army Garrison Garmisch webpage, [www.garmisch.army.mil](http://www.garmisch.army.mil), for news, community events and more.



# Soldier Show is for Soldiers, by Soldiers



The U.S. Army Soldier Show entertains Soldiers and families with a theme of current sound and video technology.

## ‘Elmo’ and ‘Cookie Monster’ entertain Soldiers at 2010 Army Soldier Show

Story and photos by  
**Ronald H. Toland Jr.**  
*USAG Ansbach Public Affairs*

The 2010 U.S. Army Soldier Show rolled into the U.S. Army Garrison Ansbach region recently, setting a satisfying and welcoming tone for the long Memorial Day weekend. The 75-minute show opened to Soldiers, family members and local invited guests in Bad Windsheim (near Storck Barracks), May 28, delivering 27 years of Army entertainment tradition. “Free entertainment of this type of caliber provides an outlet for people to get away from it all for a minute,” said Pfc. Andrew Clouse, an Army chaplain’s assistant at Fort Gordon, Ga.,

who sings and plays guitar in the show. He said the familiar songs they play have value and the show not only offers variety, but also boosts morale. “It is different to get all the genres — rock, rap, alternative — in one show,” he said. “And this is money for the audience to get their mind off other problems for a while.” And Clouse understands that feeling. “I saw the show when I was in basic and I was on cloud nine,” he said. “Being a part of it now is beyond any dream or aspiration that I could ever think of. Bringing this kind of caliber entertainment to Soldiers from inside the Army is phenomenal.” Clouse said he is excited when he’s on stage and enjoys sharing that energy with fellow Soldiers. “I liked it. It really brought it into the future with all the elements,” said Chief Warrant Officer 2 Philip White. “It was a twist I was not expecting to see. We do not get a lot of activities

in our neck of the woods, so it was really nice to bring this to our community.” White’s spouse agreed. “It was very encouraging to see that the Army is not just about the structure and training, but also about the families and making this a community,” said White’s wife Audrey. “Having them come here was a very special treat,” she added. “... because we do not get a lot of the shows that tour around other military communities often — like Graf and Ramstein.” “(The show was) fantastic. I was dancing in my seat,” said Mickey Mumfrey, director of logistics for the Ansbach garrison. The 27-Soldier detachment has been in Germany since May 20 but the tour does not stop here. After finish its German dates in Grafenwoehr and Bamberg, the tour will continue in the United States through November. For a full schedule of remaining tour dates, visit [www.armymwr.com/recreisure/entertainment/2010\\_ss\\_date.aspx](http://www.armymwr.com/recreisure/entertainment/2010_ss_date.aspx).



Spc. Julie Comtois and Pfc. Andrew Clouse add their talents to the 2010 U.S. Army Soldier Show during a high-energy number in Bad Windsheim, May 28.

# Hunting course delves into German traditions

by **Ronald H. Toland Jr.**  
*USAG Ansbach Public Affairs*

When hunting began in Europe around 800 A.D., it had significant influences on German hunting customs of today. Many of today’s customs and protocols can be traced back to these old ways, like when the right to hunt belonged solely to royalty and when there were game limitations. But not anymore. “Germany has strict guidelines on practices used by anyone harvesting animals within Germany,” said Fred Lane, hunting, fishing and sport shooting coordinator for the Ansbach Garrison. “Hunting and fishing for sport is strictly forbidden and carries substantial fines and jail time according to the German Animal Protection Act of July 24, 1972,” said Lane. “So becoming a German hunter carries great responsibility to protect and care for all animals and their habitat.” Although Lane said there are in-depth and extensive historical aspects about the sport in Germany, anyone can learn this prestigious sport. “The course covers everything you need to know to hunt in Germany,” he said, which itself is pretty extensive — history of German hunting; history of U.S. forces hunting in Germany; German federal hunting

law (Jagdgesetz); hunting land (Reviersystem); restrictions (Jagdbeschraenkungen, Pflichten); sale of game/venison (Inverkehrbringen von Wild); hunting seasons (Jagdzeiten); German weapons law (Waffengesetz) and so much more. “After the classroom instruction, shooting certification and a verbal test, you earn the right to become a Jungjaeger, possess firearms and join an exclusive group here in Germany,” said Lane. “The overall hunting program provides a piece of home to Soldiers, civilians and family members of our community,” he added, “and at a fraction of the price that it would cost as a local national or a tourist in Germany.” “It was more of a challenge for me,” said Marshall Scarlott, who took the 60-hour hunting course. “I was always interested in hunting and weapons which began as a kid.” Scarlott described the course as hard and demanding. “We learned a lot about the game, biology and best of all the traditions of hunting in Germany,” he said. Although the minimum classroom time is 60 hours, the course can take longer to complete. “The last class ran over 100 (hours). It depends on the people’s speed and their dedication, plus the range time,” said Jerry Rinehart, who is an instructor for the course and has

been hunting for about 20 years in Germany. He said classes are taught in English, but there are some German words that hunters must know. Rinehart stressed that hunters in Germany must be really dedicated and also will have a big responsibility once they are licensed. “This is not a hunter’s safety class that takes only a day,” he said. “This class teaches much more than just that — everything from biology to cleaning game and the selling of the product.” “Hunting is part of village life and it is still a big deal today,” said Rinehart. He also alluded to the culture and camaraderie in hunting. “Anything we have to do with the German public is good,” he said. “It is always a good thing to have ties with the German community. We got away from that over the years,” he said. “There are people involved now and they interact on a daily basis with the Germans, which is a big deal — it brings more people in contact with other Germans with common interests and the sharing of traditions,” he added. In light of the challenges prospective hunters face in obtaining their license, Lane explained some of the benefits of taking the course. “Having a German hunting license opens up hunting opportunities because it’s considered one of



Courtesy photo

(From left to right, back row) Michael Besant, Fred Lane, Jerry Rinehart, U.S. Army Garrison Ansbach’s Command Sgt. Maj. Lester Stephens, David Goforth, Jason Spaulding, Bill Lewis, Marshall Scarlott; (front row) James Bateman, James Watkins, Kevin Martin and Hubert Bodach-tel, pose with their certificates after the German hunting course.

the most intensive hunting courses in the world and is recognized in most other countries,” he said. “Germany has some of the finest firearms in the world and without a permit to own firearms we would never have the opportunity to buy them at a reasonable price.” And he said there is a capstone. “The biggest benefit to have a

hunting or fishing license is building relationships with the (local national) community — it opens endless opportunities and lifelong friendships,” he said. “If you would like to hunt and fish, please don’t miss the opportunity to do it while you’re in Europe. The history, culture and comradeship that you will build with our (local national) hosts will last a lifetime.”

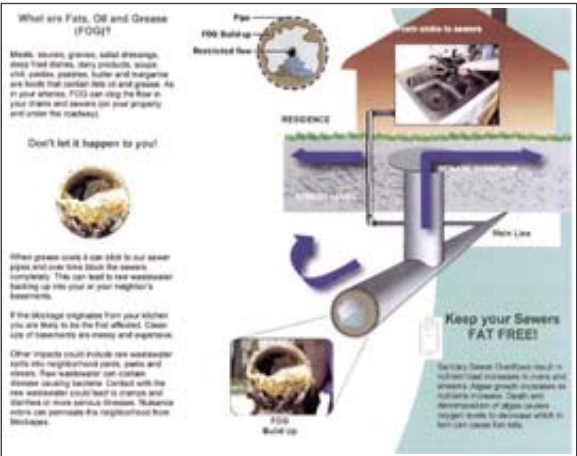
# Sink drains are no place for excess cooking grease

Residents can save environment, money by recycling their grease

by **Ronald H. Toland Jr.**  
*USAG Ansbach Public Affairs*

When used kitchen grease is poured down kitchen drain pipes, it clogs pipes as well as tax dollars. When grease cools, it sticks to sewer pipes and over time, blocks sewers completely and can lead to raw wastewater backing up in basements in the local neighborhood. “The repair cost — per apartment — is about \$1,500-2,300,” said Jutta Seefried, an environmental protection assistant at the U.S. Army Garrison Ansbach’s Environmental Division. In addition, the grease can attract unwanted pests. “Grease or oil disposed of down drains attracts rats,” said Seefried. “And utilization of pesticides would contaminate the water and ground.”

According to information from her office, sanitary sewer overflows result in nutrient load increases to local rivers and streams. Algae growth increases as nutrients increase. Death and decomposition of algae causes oxygen levels to decrease, which, in turn, can kill fish. “If people continue to pour oil down drains it would result in leaking pipes and generate ground water pollution,” said Seefried. She also added that it is a waste of resources like pipes, material to exchange pipes and labor, and that customers should dispose of oil properly. “For each gallon, we could save about \$1 if our customers bring grease to our recycling centers,” she said. “Our recycling centers have dedicated barrels to collect grease without any disposal cost,” she added. “The costs are unnecessary and drastic,” said Manfred Meyer, USAG Ansbach environmental management chief. “It is not an easy fix and deteriorates the drain and pipe systems in our housing areas.” “It is similar to our bodies and its internal blood



system with fat — if blood does not flow in our bodies we die; the same goes for houses. Grease clogs and settles in the pipes, and thus water cannot run through the house and eventually the house dies,” he said.

## Recycling center hours

**Katterbach and Storck Barracks**  
**Monday-Friday**  
8 a.m.-noon  
and 1-5 p.m.  
**Saturdays**  
11 a.m.-3 p.m.

**Shipton**  
**Tuesdays**  
11 a.m.-3 p.m.  
(reopens October 2010)



# Firefighter says act of heroism ‘just his job’

Story and photo by  
**Nathan Van Schaik**  
*USAG Schweinfurt Public Affairs*

It had been like any other night for the Schweinfurt garrison fire department. It was a warm evening and the sun was beginning to set, July 20, 2009, when the Schweinfurt crew was dispatched to a routine call. Someone had been locked out of his house. But what happened next, some may argue, was a coincidence, fate or divine intervention.

As the garrison fire truck turned onto Franz-Schubert-Strasse in Schweinfurt, a few people stood in the street and waved for the fire truck to stop, according to an excerpt from the narration provided by the victim’s family. A woman waving her hands flagged down crew members of the garrison fire department, recalled Sascha Hildmann, a Schweinfurt native and one of the department’s team members.

“The woman said there was a man in a vehicle with a heart attack,” he said.

The firefighters exited the fire truck and found a lifeless person behind a steering wheel of a sedan.

After the firefighters had placed the patient on a firm surface, Hildmann checked both breathing and circulation. It was then he determined that the patient had suffered cardiac arrest.

“He had no pulse. His face was blue,” Hildmann said.

He immediately exposed the patient’s chest and attached the electrodes of a mobile defibrillator. Hildmann gave artificial respirations with a Bag Valve Mask, after which he resuscitated the patient with help of two electrical shocks

from the defibrillator. He continued to check the patient’s vital signs, pulse and blood pressure, and turned the patient over to the rescue services upon their arrival.

The fast reaction by the firefighter crew, and particularly by Hildmann, saved the life of the man, who suffered no permanent brain damage. According to the victim’s family, the man has recovered and is doing well.

For his deed, Hildmann was awarded the U.S. Army Safety Guardian Award. Diane Devens, region director for Installation Management Command–Europe, presented the Award, May 26, on Ledward Barracks in Schweinfurt.

The Guardian Award is presented to U.S. Army military personnel, Department of Army civilians and Army contracted employees for extraordinary action in emergency situations.

Whether it was a miracle or coincidence, no one can say for certain; but for Hildmann, a man of modest words, the selfless act just comes with the territory.

“I was just doing my job,” Hildmann said. “We just do what needs to be done regardless of the consequences. We were at the right point at the right time. It was no coincidence.”

**Sascha Hildmann (right) of the Schweinfurt garrison fire department receives the U.S. Army Safety Guardian Award from Diane Devens (left), Installation Management Command–Europe director, at Ledward Barracks in Schweinfurt, May 26. Hildmann received the award for saving a man’s life, July 20, 2009.**



# Kids pack the house, give flawless performance



**Yertle the Turtle (center), played by Isabelle Guevara, holds trial in the midst of classic Dr. Seuss characters while an audience of all ages hoots, gasps and laughs. “Seussical Jr.” made its debut at Schweinfurt’s community theatre, May 20.**

Story and photo by  
**Nathan Van Schaik**  
*USAG Schweinfurt Public Affairs*

Schweinfurt’s community theatre debuted Lynn Ahrens’ and Stephen Flaherty’s “Seussical Jr.” to a sold out audience at the Abram’s Center community theatre, May 20.

Based on the works of Dr. Seuss, the musical draws a cast of both fresh faces and veteran performers consisting mostly of Schweinfurt elementary and middle school students.

Fifth-grader Declan Hurley plays a young boy who stumbles across a mysterious striped hat. He ponders what type of person would possibly wear it when — you guessed it — the Cat in the Hat, played by a grandiloquent Manual Salaiz, suddenly materializes. The two break into verse and we are suddenly introduced to a frenzy of such recognizable characters as Yertle the Turtle, Gertrude McFuzz and the Whos of Whoville.

Thereafter, the Cat navigates the characters through a Seussical imaginarium, where we follow the adventures of notable characters like Norton the Elephant, played by Pvt. Michael Villane, a chaplain assistant, and Mayzie la Bird, played by a sassy Taelor Duncan.

Perhaps the most notable feature of this production was the cast’s uncanny knack for memorizing their lines and delivering them with accurate punches. Even at tender ages — beginning with second-grade — the cast delivers. The lyrics and dialogue were rhythmic, sharp, witty, ironic and at times hilarious — like in any Dr. Seuss book. Those who zoned out for even the briefest moment risked missing out on some memorable quips and classic Seuss references.

The kids and young adults had fun on stage, and the mood shifted to the audience.

The stage was colorful and grandiose, perhaps one of the theatre’s

best (it even included a pond with running water), which complemented the actors’ and actresses’ strong performances and flamboyant costumes.

The musical score, played by musical talent and piano player, Joannes Gerber, fused what Broadway Junior labeled as a “Gumbo of musical styles.” Styles ranged from Latin to pop, swing to gospel, and R&B to funk.

The community theatre performed “Seussical Jr.” May 21 and 22, and again May 27 and 28 at the Abram’s Center community theatre.

There a few instances where entertainment can appeal to such a broad range of ages. Who doesn’t like Dr. Seuss? Schweinfurt’s community theatre brought a show for all ages, and, combined with the flawless performances of the cast, another strong production by the crew, and a stage that left the audience feeling like it was traveling a strange trip along Seuss’ neural pathways, the production was one of the year’s best.

# Event teaches kids to educate parents about environment

Story and photo by  
**Eva Bergmann**  
*USAG Schweinfurt Public Affairs*

How do I sort and recycle trash correctly? What animals can I find in the local forest? Is there life in rainwater? To your surprise, your children might now know some highly qualified answers to these and similar questions after attending the Environmental Awareness Days 2010. The event was hosted by the Environmental Division of the Directorate of Public Works at the Conn Recycling Center, June 8-10.

For about the past 20 years the Environmental Awareness Days have been held annually to raise awareness for environmental protection and sustainability in elementary and middle school students.

During the course of roughly three hours per day, children cycle through presentations at several stations, learning about subjects such as sorting and recycling, renewable energy sources and local ecosystems and biotopes. The groups are small and separated by age to

“This is not about money, this is about survival. You can’t eat money and everyone will have to learn this – at least anyone who wants to survive.”

**Wolfgang Froehling**  
Environmental Engineer, Directorate of Public Works

best match the education level of the audience.

For Lothar Rueckert, chief of the Environmental Division, the impact of the event reaches beyond the participating children.

“We follow the principle ‘kids educate their parents,’” Rueckert said in a half joking, half serious way. “After explaining to the kids how things should be done, like for example recycling, how they can protect animals and the environment or save energy in simple everyday actions, we see them going home and teaching their parents.”

A diverse group of instructors consisting of German officials, forest rangers, DPW employees, practical scientists, volunteers and various subject experts, all united to

teach about the relations between man and nature at no extra cost.

Introducing the local flora and fauna while encouraging children to think, interact and experience for themselves brings theoretical matters to life, according to Cathy Steel-Kissinger, one of the attending elementary school teachers.

“The displays that we have here were put up specifically to cover the units of the students’ science curriculum,” Steele-Kissinger explained. “It makes everything they have been reading about very real for them and they ask great questions, because they already have some background. Now they are seeing what they read and that’s what really makes things stick in their mind.”

Sustainability, also pri-

oritized by the Installation Management Command’s Campaign Plan, is a matter of strong conviction for all personnel involved.

Asked about financial savings created by environmental protection, Wolfgang Froehling, environmental engineer from the Directorate of Public Works and one of the event’s organizers, clarified this very common – but in his eyes, also a very wrong – angle of approach.

He stressed that the success of environmental protection should not be measured by numbers and that its importance goes far beyond any financial benefits.

“Environmental awareness is an essential investment for the future,” Froehling said. “Without protecting the envi-



**(From left to right) Fourth-graders Aaron Schultz, Jacob Davis and Alex Rodriguez examine the “insect motel,” which consists of different holes and cracks, providing appropriate nesting sites for various insects. Besides fostering wild life, the construction allows spectators to watch wild insects in their natural habitat.**

ronment, mankind will not be able to survive on this planet, no matter how much money we save. This is not about money, this is about survival. You can’t eat money and everyone will have to learn this – at least anyone who wants to survive.”

“These kids we train here today will go on to live at least another 70 years,” he added. “That means, what we teach them here today will really make a difference and they will continue to make a difference in this world.”



# Health clinics get new commanders



**Lt. Col. Emery B. Fehl replaced Lt. Col Leticia Sandroock to assume command of the Schweinfurt Health Clinic, June 4, at Schweinfurt's Andrus Garden.**

## Fehl takes command at Schweinfurt Health Clinic

Story and photo by  
**Nathan Van Schaik**  
*USAG Schweinfurt Public Affairs*

The Schweinfurt Health Clinic welcomed a new commander, June 4, when Lt. Col. Emery B. Fehl replaced outgoing commander Lt. Col Leticia Sandroock. Sandroock had assumed interim command in place of Lt. Col. Patrick Denman who departed last month.

Following the ceremony, Fehl and Garrison Commander Lt. Col. Everett Spain sealed their commitment to provide the highest quality health care to Soldiers and their families by signing the Army Medicine Health Care Covenant.

Fehl's most recent assignment was as deputy commander of administration for Fox Army Health Center at Redstone Arsenal, Ala., and as deputy commanding officer of the 47th Combat Support Hospital and officer in charge of Task Force 47th MED at Al Asad, Iraq, during Operation Iraqi Freedom 09-11.

Fehl, who has served in Germany before, is from Cincinnati, Ohio. He graduated from the United States Military Academy at West Point and holds a Doctor of Optometry degree from Indiana University and a master's degree in Health Care Administration from the Zicklin School of Business, Baruch College. He is board certified in optometry and is a Fellow of the American Academy of Optometry, a rare qualification among health clinic commanders.

Fehl has two sons, one in the Army Reserve and the other a recent high school graduate.



**Lt. Col. Gordon D. Mayes assumes command of the U.S. Army Health Clinic, Hohenfels, from Lt. Col. Derek C. Cooper during a ceremony, June 11.**

## Mays leads in Hohenfels

by **Jennifer Walsh**  
*BMEDDAC Public Affairs*

Lt. Col. Gordon D. Mayes assumed command of the U.S. Army Health Clinic, Hohenfels, from Lt. Col. Derek C. Cooper during a ceremony, here, June 11.

"The Hohenfels Health Clinic has a fantastic reputation and an excellent staff of Soldiers and civilians," Mayes said. "We will continue to provide first-class quality care to our Soldiers, their families and our other beneficiaries."

Mayes comes to Hohenfels from San Antonio, Texas, where he was the executive officer for the commanding general of the Army Medical Department Center and School at Fort Sam Houston, Texas.

His previous assignments include: medical evacuation officer and operations officer for the Command Surgeon, U.S. Army Central, Third Army, Fort McPherson, Ga.; Battalion S3 and executive officer, 52nd Medical Battalion, 18th Medical Command, Yongson, Korea; and commander, U.S. Army Air Ambulance Detach-

ment, Fort Irwin, Calif.

Cooper commanded the clinic for two years and accomplished several goals including increasing the clinic's health metrics by 40 percent and improving patient satisfaction by 10 percent. He also started practicing the patient-centered medical home style of health care in the clinic.

"Derek and his team streamlined the steps involved in a patient visit and asked what is best from the vantage point of the patient," said Col. Steven J. Brewster, Bavaria Medical Department Activity commander. "This patient-centered medical home approach has the potential to revolutionize our patients' experiences in our clinics."

Cooper thanked his staff, friends and family for their support throughout his command.

"To my health clinic family, you are simply the best," Cooper said. "Continue to support each other, support this community and you will undoubtedly retain the first-place ranking on the Europe Regional Medical Command dashboard that you currently enjoy."

Cooper's next assignment will take him to Washington, D.C., where he'll work for the Office of the Surgeon General.

# Hantavirus prevalent this year

by **Lt. Col. Kenneth R. McPherson**  
*U.S. Army Public Health Command Region-Europe*

HEIDELBERG, Germany – German public health officials have recently publicized an increase in Puumala virus infections among its citizens in the states of Baden-Wuerttemberg and Bavaria.

Though there have been no reported cases of Puumala virus infection in U.S. military personnel or family members living in Germany, awareness of the situation may keep potential cases from occurring.

Puumala virus is a member of the European Hantaviruses that can potentially cause hemorrhagic fever with renal syndrome. Between January and April 2010 there were a total of 369 confirmed cases of Puumala virus in German citizens, with most cases occurring in the counties surrounding Stuttgart.

Reported cases of Puumala virus in Germany are normally around 200 cases per year. Most cases occurred in exposed persons living and working in rural areas.

People are typically exposed when they work with contaminated products or when they disturb dusty sheds and buildings that are contaminated with rodent urine and excrement. The Stuttgart area is seeing more cases due to urban sprawl from the city into the country.

This mild form of Hantavirus results from inhaling dusts contaminated with rodent urine and feces. Between 80-95 percent of people exposed do not get sick or develop symptoms.

Those who become sick typically have a sudden onset of fever and flu-like symptoms to include muscle aches, gastrointestinal pain and vomiting. Rarely does renal failure, which is the shutdown of the kidneys, occur.

## Prevention

There are no Hantavirus vaccines available, so the best protection is to avoid exposure to rodents and their excrement.

The best prevention method is to limit ro-

dent populations in and around buildings by reducing clutter and debris that attracts rodents. This also includes cutting back hedges and bushes away from buildings. Firewood should be stacked away from the home and in a manner that limits rodent attraction and nesting.

Avoid disturbing dusty sheds, barns, attics and rooms that may have rodent nests. Do not use brooms or vacuum cleaners to clean these areas, since these methods promote breathing contaminated dusts.

To limit dust in the air, moisten dusty surfaces and floors with water containing a mild detergent and household sanitizers. An inexpensive sanitizer can be made by mixing 1.5 cups of household bleach per gallon of water (use care not to splash in eyes or on skin). Wearing rubber gloves, wipe, mop or wet sweep treated surfaces.

To remove dead rodents, spray them with disinfectant solution, wearing rubber gloves place the rodent in a double bag. Wipe surrounding area with paper towels and place them in the double bag with the dead rodent, seal and discard in the garbage.

After any cleaning operation, wash hands thoroughly with soap and water. Alcohol-based hand sanitizer may be used when soap is not available or when hands are not visibly soiled.

Anyone who develops flu-like symptoms after entering dusty buildings or after handling dead rodents should immediately seek medical attention.

To find out more about Puumala and other Hantaviruses, visit the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention website: <http://www.cdc.gov>; the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control website: <http://ecdc.europa.eu>; and the U.S. Army Public Health Command (Provisional) website: <http://phc.amedd.army.mil>.

*Editor's Note: Col. Eric Shuping, Lt. Col. Ken McPherson, Michele Balihe and Melissa Wong contributed reporting.)*

# Netherlands experiences Q fever outbreak

by **Col. Evelyn Barraza**  
*Europe Regional Medical Command*

HEIDELBERG, Germany – The Netherlands is experiencing a continued outbreak of Q fever, an animal disease that could be passed on to humans.

Although the risk is low and no infections have been identified in military beneficiaries in Europe, travelers to the Netherlands are advised to avoid farms in affected areas, eat only milk and dairy products that have been pasteurized, wash hands frequently if near animals, and to inform their health care provider if they become ill two to four weeks after exposure or travel. Acute Q fever most commonly presents as a flu-like illness, pneumonia or hepatitis.

Q fever is caused by *Coxiella burnetii*, a species of bacteria found throughout the world.

According to the Netherlands National Institute for Public Health and the Environment, infected dairy goat and sheep farms have been the primary source of infection for humans, particularly affecting people living close (under five kilometers) to such farms. The majority of cases have been in the southern region of the country (Noord Brabant, Gelderland, Limburg and Utrecht provinces).

Transmission to humans is usually through the inhalation of dust contaminated by infected animals, but may occur through contact with the animals or ingestion of contaminated food. Dutch authorities have launched a nationwide campaign to control the outbreak.

For more, visit the CDC Traveler's Health webpage at <http://bit.ly/aDL1Po>.

*Editor's Note: Col. Evelyn Barraza is a Preventive Medicine Consultant at the Europe Regional Medical Command.*

# a shot of advice

by **Lt. Col. STEPHEN LINCK**  
*BMEDDAC*

**Q.** Hi, I got the HPV vaccine twice already and I am supposed to go back to get my third HPV shot in three months. I heard that it is not recommended for pregnant women. I might be pregnant now and was wondering if I can get the third shot after I gave birth without it working less effectively on me. Does it make a difference if I get my third HPV shot four months after the second one or a whole pregnancy later?

I hope you have an answer for me. Thank you very much!  
Thanks, Hesitant in Heidelberg

**A.** Dear Hesitant,

I get a lot of questions about Gardasil and every time I have to go back to the package insert. Also, I learn something every time I go back over the literature.



**Linck**

This time I learned that the HPV vaccine is now approved for use in males to prevent certain types of venereal warts. Now back to your question.

If you are pregnant, you should not get the vaccine. If you plan on breastfeeding, you have to use caution when getting the vaccine since it is unknown if the vaccine is present in breast milk. The good news is that you will not have to restart the series. All you have to do is get the third dose before your 27th birthday. The normal schedule of zero, two, and six months is based on getting maximum coverage. I hope I helped a little. Good luck and good health.

**Q.** I noticed Americans behave very badly on the trains, especially Soldiers getting on in Vilseck and Freihung. On separate occasions I had to ask a Soldier to refrain from swearing, playing their music loud, and talking about drug use past and present. There seems to be a lack of decent behavior, or lack of practice in behaving correctly. Is it OK for me to ask for their unit information the next time this happens? To be honest, I'm not even sure who to complain to as this issue seems to be not just a garrison issue, but a few Americans not respecting their host country.

Angry in Auerbach

**A.** Dear Angry,

This isn't a health-related question, but I never turn down a chance to answer a leadership question. I am a firm believer in making on the spot corrections when I see something not right. The best response is to address the issue then and there.

I find that most people will correct the behavior when it is pointed out. If they don't, you are completely within your rights to ask to see their ID card after identifying yourself. It is relatively easy to find out a Soldier's unit if you have their name. Then you can always call the NCO or officer chain of command if necessary. My personal experience is that most of the time people just aren't aware they are causing a problem and will respond appropriately when confronted with the issue.

**Q.** My husband is getting ready to deploy and he plans on "bulking up" while he's down-range. I told him I didn't think the supplements he bought online were completely safe. Is there a website I can send him that shows how safe these things are?

Thanks, Skeptical in Schweinfurt

**A.** Dear Skeptical,

I assume you are talking about "bulking up" in the gym and not with a "male enhancement product" I see advertised all the time in automobile magazines. The best way to bulk up is with real foods high in protein, not with dietary supplements.

Most of these muscle-building products are dietary supplements so their efficacy and ingredients are not regulated by the Food and Drug Administration. Where your husband really needs to use caution is to prevent dehydration if he decides to use supplements. Products high in protein have the potential to cause kidney damage, especially when combined with dehydration.

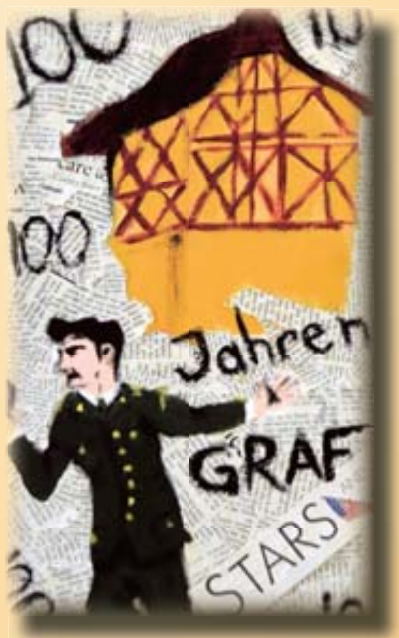
Proteins are large molecules that can damage the portion of the kidney that filters urine and has the potential to lead to a life-threatening condition called rhabdomyolysis. There are numerous websites dedicated to safety of supplements, but I recommend going to [www.fda.gov](http://www.fda.gov) for more information or use an Internet search engine to look up the specific brand he plans on using.

*If you need a shot of advice, e-mail your question to [brmc-pao@amedd.army.mil](mailto:brmc-pao@amedd.army.mil).*





Category Two: (Grades 4-7)  
1st Place: Mason Porter



4th Place: Johanna Kessler

## 100th GTA Anniversary Art Contest winners

More than 30 students from the high school and elementary school participated in the Garrison Training Area 100th Anniversary Art Contest. Winners received gift certificates and free movie passes from the Army and Air Force Exchange Service for their participation.

Four judges from the Joint Multinational Training Command, U.S. Army Garrison Grafenwoehr and the Army and Air Force Exchange Service chose the winners.



3rd Place: Lauren Daily



Category One: (Grades 8-12) 1st Place: Dane Gray



2nd Place: Thomas Fielder Leming

## ‘Odyssey’ teaches teamwork

Continued from page 1

VES team placed 31 out of 62 teams in their division, an achievement for which they are extremely proud.

“The competition was really strong,” said Odyssey of the Mind Coach Victoria Hennion, VES, who accompanied the children on the long journey. “We did well.”

According to Hennion, the competition encouraged creativity, divergent thinking and time management.

“The children do it all on their own, from brainstorming to production,” said Hennion. “They problem solve and work together as a team.”

“It’s amazing what they can accomplish,” said Hennion, grinning with pride.

For the competition, the VES team chose a problem entitled “Discovered Treasures” in which students created and presented an original performance that included the portrayal of the discovery of two archaeological treasures. One portrayal was a team-created version of a discovery of an actual historical treasure, while the second portrayal was the team’s depiction of a mod-



Vilseck Elementary Odyssey of the Mind teammates follow an imaginative path to problem-solving during a team building exercise.

ern sculpture or structure that exists today but was discovered in the future.

The performance also included an artistic representation of the two discovered treasures and characters that are part of the discovery teams.

All props, costumes and makeup were thought up, created and presented by the six students. The students who competed and attended are Hanna Bajakian, Daniel Cole, Rachelle Cole, Andrew

Dougherty, Kayla Johnson, Mirielle Ragay.

Through various competitions and creative outlets, Odyssey of the Mind continues to teach children and adolescents unique and useful skills that will benefit them for life.

When asked what the most important skill Odyssey of the Mind had taught them so far, the young crew, in unison stated, “Teamwork.”

“And we know how to have fun,” said Bajakian.



The Schweinfurt Sallys pose for a photo after their big win. Pictured (from left to right, first row) are: Austin Owen, Dominic Adams, Ben Tuccitto, Karrington Floyd, Jonathan Rigdon, Caleb Stivers, Cameron Pinyan, Joshua Garcet and Head Coach Capt. Doug Dow; Second row: Capt. Paul Shreve, Spc. Todd Stivers, Nickolas Carbajal, Derek Shreve, Jaime Manglona, Allan Dow, Vaun Stivers and Seamus Hurley.

## Sallys rally for IMCOM title

Continued from page 1

The boys were back to their usual high spirits, cheering each other on, hitting the ball well, stealing bases, and, of course, doing their signature “Stanky leg dance” while at bat and on bases. The Sallys remembered why they were there; not only to win, but to have fun, too. Their newfound high spirits seemed to make them invincible. Even after one of Schweinfurt’s power hitters, outfielder and short stop Karrington Floyd (son of Spc. Matthew Floyd of 172<sup>nd</sup> Support Battalion), was hit with a wild pitch, the team continued to build momentum.

The Sallys went on a tear and scored 11 runs

at the bottom of the third inning to win the game 15-14. Although the game only lasted three innings, it was called because it exceeded the two-hour time limit.

Despite all the drama and adrenaline, the team still had to beat Vicenza to take the title, and they did. With their usual crazy antics, joking, dancing and the high-precision performance of a well-seasoned team, the Sallys clobbered Vicenza 15-5.

When asked why they wanted to win so badly, the boys said they had to: it was Coach Doug Dow and team mom Angie Dow’s wedding anniversary and they didn’t have a gift.

### Go home!

Visit the U.S. Army Garrison Grafenwoehr webpage at [www.grafenwoehr.army.mil](http://www.grafenwoehr.army.mil).